



Angelo State University •

Magazine

Spring 2012 • Volume 5 • Number 1

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**State of
the Arts**

**Getting
Connected**

Skunk TV

Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

With 2011 behind us, many of the issues we faced over the past months will continue with us into 2012. While the reduction of state funding for higher education remains at the center of our institutional challenges, the tenacity of a tight job market coupled with high national unemployment remains a focus of attention for our graduates and currently enrolled students. So, a key question for 2012 is how best to position our university to weather these and other challenges to the benefit of ASU and our students.

My belief is that an engaged student is better prepared for personal and professional success. That is why our new *Quality Enhancement Plan* on “community-engaged active learning” will be a welcome addition to our curriculum. While ASU students and faculty, as well as staff members, have a long tradition of involvement in community activities and organizations, that involvement has never been intentionally seen as a specific outcome for student learning. Over the course of the upcoming months, we will develop new opportunities to engage students and faculty in the diverse and vibrant activities of our community and region to the mutual benefit of those students and our neighbors. Many of these opportunities will revolve around the emerging local arts scene and our re-energized downtown.

We will also expand our attention to the natural environment and how all of us can play a more direct role in sustainability issues. The Student Government Association has championed a robust recycling program that now covers the entire campus. Our newly opened Plaza Verde residence hall and its associated green space were all constructed with attention to energy savings and recycling. Our goal is to visualize the campus as a “learning laboratory” for sustainability, thus creating a lifelong awareness of the importance of these issues for our entire community.

Finally, and in spite of the many serious issues we will face, it is always good to take a step back and enjoy the lighter side of life. I think that you will agree that the story about the Japanese film crew using our biology faculty and students for a video shoot on skunks at an area ranch clearly meets that goal.

Again, thank you for your support for our campus and students over the past year. We all should welcome 2012 with the sense of energy that emerges from having successfully weathered the challenges of 2011.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo
President



Joseph C. Rallo



Angelo State University Magazine

Spring 2012

Vol. 5, No. 1

Angelo State University

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Angelo State University Magazine

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Editor's Note: In this issue, *ASU Magazine* examines the various ways students, faculty and staff are engaged in the community.

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When producers for a Japanese TV network called on ASU biologists to help film a show on skunks, the results were predictable and pungent!

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In the updated *Centennial Master Plan 2028*, some things have remained the same and some things have changed, but all have an emphasis on the sustainable and the maintainable.

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On the Cover: Much like the hands of Estaban C. “Steve” Appodaca give form to clay on a potter's wheel, Angelo State faculty in art, music and theatre help shape the state of the arts in the Concho Valley. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Back Cover: One of the most popular places on campus these days is the Center for Human Performance with its expanded student recreation facilities, including exercise equipment, jogging track and rock climbing tower.



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Grade A Program



Betty Thorpe (right)
with AFROTC cadet
Corrie Trimmer

Photo by Danny Meyer



Kurtis Neal

The Tuition Exemption Program that allows full-time Angelo State University employees to take up to three semester credit hours per semester at a relatively low cost is producing some unexpected results.

When Betty Thorpe, holder of an associate degree, began work on an ASU bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, she knew that earning a diploma would fulfill a lifelong goal. What she failed to realize initially was that the process would also help her understand some of the challenges faced by the students she assists in the course of her job.

As office coordinator for the Department of Aerospace Studies, Thorpe works with Air Force ROTC students on a daily basis.

"I know that I personally have a greater degree of empathy with our students and I can be a better help to them when they come to me with a problem or concern," Thorpe said. "It also helps me stay current on procedures for registering online and

for use of Blackboard," ASU's online course management system.

Kimberly Adams, the corporation and foundation officer in the Office of Development as well as a 2004 graduate in business administration, is working on her master's degree in ASU's online student development and leadership in higher education program, the most common graduate degree sought by participants in the Tuition Exemption Program.

"When I was first employed at ASU," Adams said, "numerous jobs were available that I felt experience qualified me for. However, I didn't have the master's degree that they required. As a single parent of a 2-year-old at the time, my family thought I was insane for thinking about starting this program."

Today, Adams is halfway to her master's degree in education and takes classes at home on her computer. Through online discussions with classmates, she has met



Photo by Kimberley Parker

numerous people on campus and from other states. While the online format allows her to take classes at her convenience on a schedule that includes her ASU job, a part-time job and a 4-year-old, it is not without its challenges.

"Many times I have left my computer to get something from another room," Adams said, "and I have returned to find my son playing Mickey Mouse Clubhouse."

For Kurtis Neal, ASU's director of human resources, the Tuition Exemption Program's impact is anything but "Mickey Mouse."

"Expanded knowledge sets and skills not only provide opportunity to the individual," Neal said, "but they also provide our institution a better educated workforce and a greater opportunity for ASU to leverage internal promotions and transfers that allow us to grow from within."

Originating from a staff member's request to the Staff Senate, the program began in the 2006-07 academic year on a

tuition reimbursement model, but the upfront payment created a financial hardship on many employees and discouraged others from participating. Two years later, the program went to a tuition exemption format and participation increased from an average 4.5 participants per semester the first year to 29.5 participants per semester during the 2010-11 academic year.

Under the program, tuition – except for the state-mandated component – and most fees are waived for employee participants. Last academic year, 40 employees from 23 different ASU departments and offices enrolled in 88 courses. Three-quarters of the participants were staff members while the balance was faculty.

"The impact that this program has had on employee morale has definitely been positive," Neal said. "Employees are encouraged to either begin or finish an educational goal that they have, and this program supports that."

"Those who utilize the program realize the extra value that it brings to their employment experience," Neal continued, "and I believe that they are more committed and engaged employees because of the program. By working for Angelo State, employees not only receive a paycheck, they also receive an incentive to better themselves through higher education."

The participants agree.

"The program," Adams said, "is very beneficial and a great opportunity to anyone willing to accept the challenge to go to school. The Tuition Exemption Program is the reason I was able to start my graduate degree."

Thorpe has found the experience rewarding and different from her college experience elsewhere.

"There are usually other non-traditional students in my classes," Thorpe said. "We tend to help each other and mentor other traditional students. Many students don't realize how lucky we are here. If we have questions or need help, we can always ask those questions and talk to our professors. I've been a student in other really large universities, and I could never get in to see our professor, and we weren't really encouraged to ask questions."

Even so, there are challenges.

"Trying to balance family time, homework assignments, study time and exam study time can be difficult," Thorpe said, "but I feel extremely lucky to have both my family and our department cheering me on!" ■



The Illustrating Professor

Recognizing wisdom in the old adage “a picture is worth a thousand words,” Dr. Laurence Musgrove offers an entire book’s worth of pictures to students in his Angelo State English classes.

Head of the English and Modern Languages Department, Musgrove teaches composition, literature, creative writing and advanced writing courses. While those courses are based on the written word, a simple illustration can spark the imagination and serve as a vehicle for transporting ideas and guiding students, according to Musgrove.

“I’ve been using drawings in my classes for some time,” he said. “About a decade ago, I noticed students more frequently were coming to my literature and writing classes complaining about a book being hard or boring.”

“So, I just asked them to draw pictures while thinking about what happens when they read,” he added. “I thought the drawings might access something more immediate than writing. After that, I decided to have my students draw in all my classes, and turn this approach into a research project to see if I could discover any patterns.”

Noticing that he was receiving a limited vocabulary of images, Musgrove researched reading metaphors, visual thinking and learning, and the impact they have on student engagement in the classroom. He has published a book on those subjects, *Handmade Thinking: A Picture Book on Reading and Drawing*, and has made several presentations to fellow professors and teachers at national conferences on the subject. He also maintains three websites filled with examples for his students and other teachers.

In the course of his research, Musgrove came across the book *Back of the Napkin* by

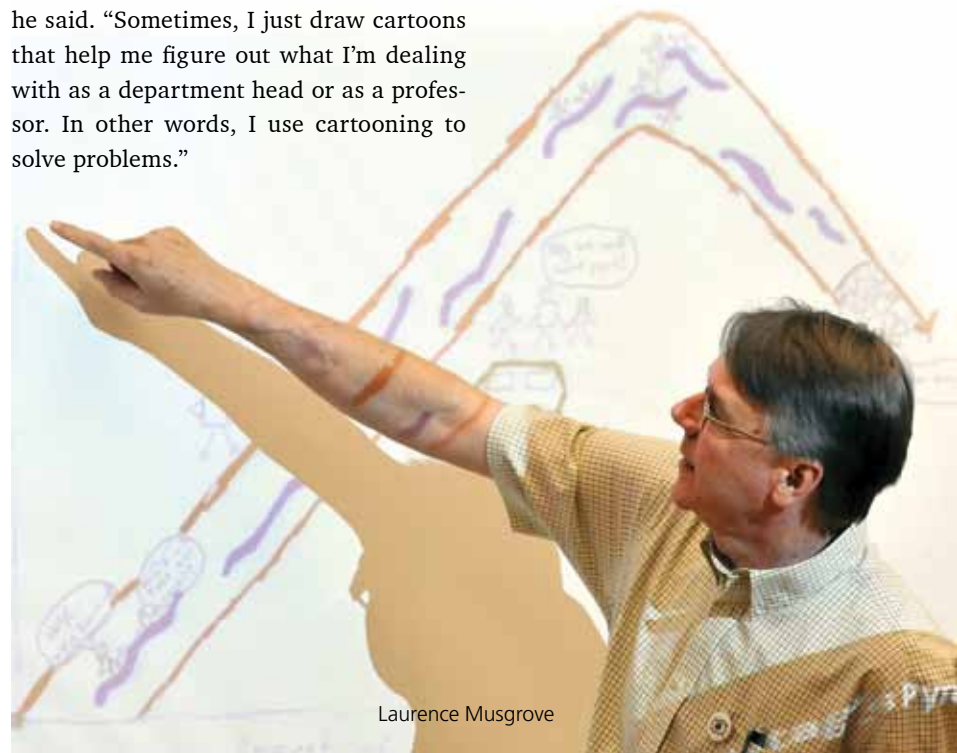
Dan Roam. Though written for the business world, it meshes nicely with Musgrove’s ideas.

“Roam argues that drawing for an audience is a much more effective tool than just throwing up a bunch of images on an overhead projector,” Musgrove said. “It engages the audience in a more powerful way.”

Using Roam’s approach as a starting point, Musgrove developed 21 visual formats that he directs students to use in responding to literature. It was through those efforts that he developed *Handmade Thinking* and its corresponding website, www.handmadethinking.com, to put forward the idea that when we draw, we think, and when we think, we learn.

Musgrove also maintains an academic website, www.theillustratedprofessor.com, where he posts ideas about using visual thinking in his teaching and research.

“Sometimes, I show students’ work,” he said. “Sometimes, I just draw cartoons that help me figure out what I’m dealing with as a department head or as a professor. In other words, I use cartooning to solve problems.”



Laurence Musgrove

The lighter side of Musgrove’s personality is “illustrated” in his third website, www.cartoonranch.com.

“I have a character at the Cartoon Ranch I call ‘Tex’ who appears in cartoons about Texas,” he said. “Tex is just a triangle with arms, a hat, eyes and a nose. The cartoon blog is for entertainment, like when I dressed Tex up like Lincoln and Washington for Presidents’ Day.”

Regardless of the format or venue, Musgrove subscribes to a quote by the late author and illustrator D.R. Augsburg, “Drawing is one of the surest ways of acquiring knowledge.”

“Drawing is a thinking tool, not an end in itself,” Musgrove said. “It’s a means to another end. Drawing can be an effective way to think through our problems, to represent our ideas and to help students learn.” ■

Games Americans Play

Due in large part to its continually expanding presence in all forms of media, sports has become the gilded idol worshipped by an entire generation of American men.

That was just one of the over-arching themes presented by renowned sports journalist Frank Deford as the keynote speaker for Angelo State’s 2011 E. James Holland University Symposium on American Values last fall.

“This year alone,” Deford said, “for every 100 males who graduate from college, 185 females will. I know there are a lot of reasons to account for this, including the real possibility that they are smarter than we are. But, don’t tell me that at least part of the reason for the failure of our boys to do well in the classroom isn’t because they concentrate so much on sports.”

Deford, however, waited until after graduating from Princeton University to become one of those boys. As an author, *Sports Illustrated* writer and radio and TV correspondent, he has witnessed from the front row the evolution of American sports. He has also experienced the great pride communities across the country take in their sports identities.

“What’s the worst thing I can say about San Angelo?” he asked. “You’re a bad sports town – that’s like a knife through the heart. I could call you a bad education town or a bad crime town, and that’s water off the back. But, don’t call someplace a bad sports town.”

With either pen or microphone in hand, Deford has watched as top athletes became the idols of millions. An easy example of how sports affect American values is seen in how differently those same athletes are treated when their warts are exposed.

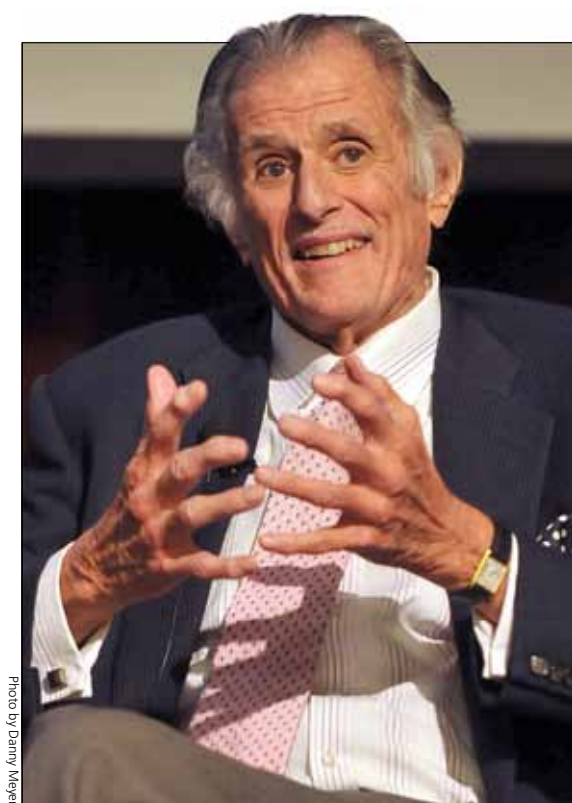
“When a sports hero does something naughty,” Deford said, “we hear, ‘Oh my, he has let sports down.’ When some movie star or rap star does something nasty, does anybody say he has let show business down, or he has let Hollywood down? No.”

Despite the exalted place sports occupy in American society, Deford has also observed and chronicled many of the issues and scandals that plague athletes, teams and organizations as they compete for their places in the spotlight. Topics he discussed at ASU included performance enhancing drugs, gambling and the “amateur” façade maintained by the NCAA.

“Amateurism may be a noble concept,” Deford said, “but it’s like communism, it only works on paper. And, we only find amateurism in sports. We expect the winner of ‘American Idol’ to go out and make money right away, and as much as he or she can for singing, but for some reason, we apply the insane principle of amateurism to athletics.”

Over his 50-year career as a sports reporter, Deford has seen it all. He can tell personal stories about athletes ranging from Yogi Berra to Bill Russell and from Billy Jean King to Charles Barkley. Through it all, he has maintained his love for the games that have had such a huge influence on his life, and continue to exert an almost magical hold on the imaginations of millions of Americans.

“There is one thing that embraces us all,” he said. “For all its abuses and excesses, sports is a truly unifying element, and I’m proud to have spent my life as one of its troubadours. It is truly the lingua franca of the world today.” ■



Frank Deford

Lessons Learned



John Quiñones

Think about how your actions affect others, and never give up on your dreams.

Those two messages were the central themes of a presentation delivered by Emmy Award-winning journalist John Quiñones as part of Angelo State's Hispanic Serving Institution Speaker Series that also brought several scholars and education authorities to campus last fall.

Co-anchor of the ABC News series "Primetime," Quiñones used real-life examples to share his messages with the ASU audience.

"Things can be tough in college, trying to find out who you are," Quiñones said. "I definitely want people to know that I experienced that, too. I have a message that resonates with everyone, but Mexican-Americans especially have a drought of role models."

He also shared a clip from an episode of his "Primetime" limited series "What Would You Do?," a show that he describes as the "Candid Camera" of ethics. The series captures people's responses when confronted with dilemmas.

Quiñones had his own share of dilemmas growing up as a Mexican-American youth in San Antonio. He spoke only Spanish as a child and did not begin learning English until he started school at age 6. The first time he left the state was when he was 13 and his family traveled to Michigan and Ohio to pick produce as migrant workers. He said the work taught him that he wanted to aspire to something greater.

However, reaching that goal was no small task. When he was in school, Quiñones's teachers enrolled him in auto shop and woodworking classes because they assumed those courses would be most beneficial to him after high school. One person, however, encouraged him to choose his own career path.

Photo by Danny Meyer



"My English teacher was also Mexican-American, and noticed I was a good writer," Quiñones said. "She was the first one who saw something in me. I'm still in touch with her."

That teacher encouraged him to write for his school newspaper. When he was 17, he interned at a broadcast station, and at night would sneak in and practice talking to himself without a Spanish accent. Little by little, he improved his speech and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in speech communication from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. That success sparked him to complete his master's degree from the Columbia School of Journalism.

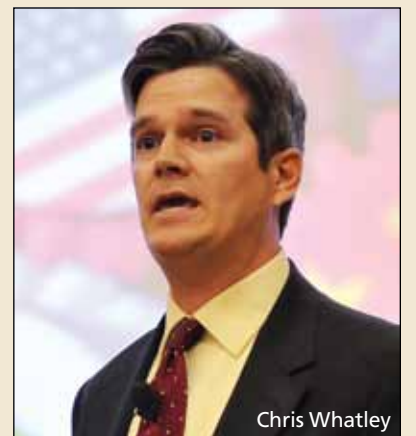
Prior to joining ABC News, Quiñones was a reporter with WBBM-TV in Chicago. Having always been interested in telling the story of people who do not have a voice, he went undercover early in his career to re-

port on the illegal immigration process of sneaking into the United States. Another time, he worked undercover as a dishwasher at a restaurant where the boss was not paying immigrant workers.

Given his interest in sharing the stories and experiences of immigrant workers, it was fitting that the "What Would You Do?" video clip Quiñones shared with the ASU audience showed two immigrant workers in a New Jersey deli trying to order food despite not being able to speak English. As an obnoxious deli employee harassed them, the clip focused on the reactions of the other deli customers.

While the scenario was staged, the reactions of other deli customers were not. Though several customers sided with the deli employee, the majority of them stood up for the immigrant workers.

"The show reminds us to stop and think before we make judgments," Quiñones said. ■



Chris Whatley

Check out what other campus speakers, including Navajo Code Talker Samuel Tso and Chris Whatley, deputy executive director and Washington office director for the Council of State Governments, had to say this past fall at ASU by visiting the bonus features on the *ASU Magazine* website at

www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine

7,000-Plus

For the second consecutive fall, Angelo State University set an all-time enrollment record as 7,084 students signed up for classes during the 2011 fall semester.

On the 20th class day, the official reporting date for enrollment figures, the overall 2011 fall enrollment was up 228 students, 3.3 percent over the 6,856 enrolled on the 20th class day of the fall of 2010.

Major factors in the record were a 16.5 percent increase in graduate enrollment and improved retention for students between the junior and senior years. The 817 graduate enrollment, up from 701 last fall, marked the fifth consecutive fall or spring semester in which the College of Graduate Studies has recorded a new enrollment high.

Comparisons by classification for the fall 2011 and 2010 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 2,027, 2,097, -3.3 percent; sophomore, 1,393, 1,374, 1.4 percent; junior, 1,177, 1,148, 2.5 percent; senior, 1,512, 1,358, 11.3 percent; unclassified, 158, 178, -11.2 percent; master's, 755, 664, 13.7 percent; doctoral, 62, 37, 67.6 percent; and total, 7,084, 6,856, 3.3 percent.

Additionally, the semester credit hours taken by both graduate and undergraduate students were up 3.5 per-

cent, totaling 87,555 for this fall, compared to 84,567 for last fall.

Major STEM Grant

Angelo State University, in collaboration with the Howard County Junior College District, has received an initial U.S. Department of Education grant of \$1,177,817 to enhance educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

After a successful first funding year, which began Oct. 1 with the start of the new federal fiscal year, ASU stands to gain an additional \$3,912,650 over the next four federal fiscal years. At current funding levels, the final grant total would exceed \$5.09 million and become the largest Department of Education grant in ASU's history.

The grant is designed to increase the number of students, especially Hispanic and low income students, completing degrees in the STEM fields.

The ASU grant is among 100 nationally going to colleges and universities designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) by the Department of Education.

Under the grant, ASU and Howard will implement four strategies to increase the number of students who earn four-year STEM degrees. First, they will offer outreach

programs to K-12 students and families as well as communities to demonstrate the opportunities in the fields. Second, they will ease the processes of moving from Howard to ASU in STEM fields by increasing access and student support.

Additionally, the two institutions will improve science and math labs through renovation and equipment upgrades. And fourth, they will improve STEM education and access through increased faculty development in the related disciplines.

The primary service area for ASU and Howard is made up of 23 counties in rural West Texas, where the regional population is 38 percent Hispanic.

Distinctive Again

Angelo State University is the only public institution on a list of nine Texas universities to make the 2011-12 list of top colleges nationally as identified by *CollegesofDistinction.com*, an online guide that recognizes colleges and universities that appeal to students' varied interests.

This marks the second year that ASU has made the Colleges of Distinction list. Last year in its list debut, Angelo State was identified as one of several new "up and coming" universities, excelling in key areas of educational quality: engaged students, great

teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes.

Physics

Equipment Grant

The Department of Physics will receive high-tech lab equipment – four germanium detectors valued at \$200,000 – through a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant awarded to Dr. Scott Williams, assistant professor of physics.

The equipment, made possible through the DOE's Energy Related Laboratory Equipment grant program, will support physics student and faculty research related to accelerator experiments, X-ray detection, fluorescence, geological material composition, and atomic and nuclear radiating processes, among other topics.

Two of the detectors will be used in the atomic collisions lab, another in the X-ray fluorescence lab and the fourth in modern physics and applied radiation physics courses.

Military Salute

For the third consecutive year, Angelo State University has received the designation as a "Military Friendly School" from *G.I. Jobs* magazine, which serves military personnel transitioning into civilian life.

The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are

doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students. Overall, Angelo State was among 1,518 educational institutions out of 8,000 nationally to be recognized as military friendly.

NSF Geosciences Grant

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a \$164,839 grant to ASU's geology program to promote careers in geosciences to West Texas junior and senior high school students.

The proposal, titled "Pathways for Inspiring, Educating and Recruiting (PIER) West Texans in the Geosciences," was co-authored by geology faculty Drs. Joseph Satterfield and James Ward in collaboration with former ASU Sciences Dean Grady Price Blount.

Funded through the NSF Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences program, the PIER program is designed to increase student participation in the geosciences through recruiting efforts and professional development for grades 6-12 science teachers in the San Angelo Independent School District.

Geosciences fields of study include geology, hydrology, mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, paleontology, oceanography, climatology, meteorology and others.

Nursing Grants

Angelo State University's Department of Nursing has been awarded grants totaling \$29,406 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to continue funding two of the department's key graduate student financial aid programs for the 2011-12 academic year.

A \$21,175 HRSA grant will go toward the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program, which provides traineeships to graduate students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing programs.

An additional \$8,231 grant will provide funding for the department's Nursing Faculty Loan Program, which awards low-interest loans to selected ASU graduate students to pay for tuition, fees, books and supplies as they work toward master's degrees in nursing with a nurse educator focus.

Student Chemistry Group

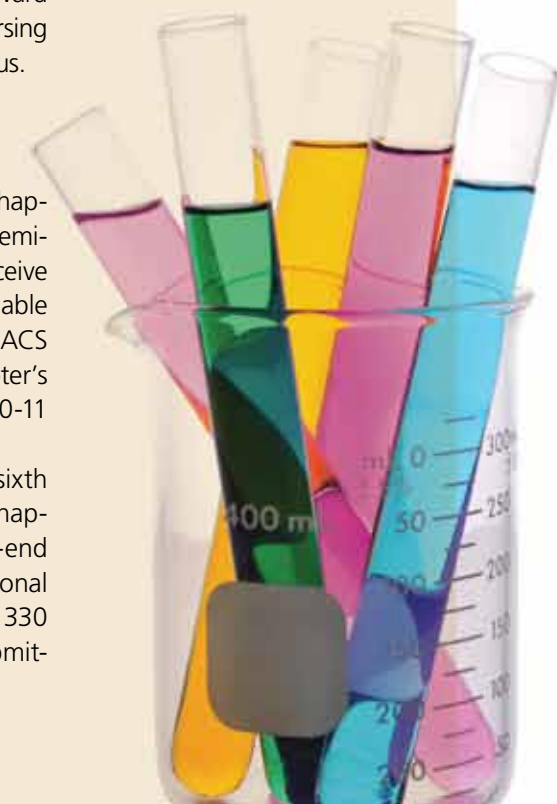
ASU's student affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) will receive in March a Commendable Award from the national ACS organization for the chapter's activities during the 2010-11 academic year.

This will mark the sixth straight year the ASU chapter has received a year-end award from the national ACS. Of the more than 330 ACS chapter reports submit-

ted to the society's Committee on Education, only 122 received a Commendable or higher award.

The ASU chapter was recognized for its participation in chemistry outreach activities, attendance at national meetings, fundraising and social events. Chapter members annually take part in ASU Science Days, Mole Day, Earth Day and National Chemistry Week activities, and host a Spring "Green" Chemistry Symposium on campus.

Faculty sponsors for ASU's student chapter are Kevin Boudreaux, senior instructor of chemistry, and Dr. Edith Osborne, assistant professor of biochemistry. ■



Edith Osborne

Dr. Edith Osborne, assistant professor of biochemistry, is co-author of a paper published in the Aug. 26 issue of *Science*, the prestigious weekly journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The paper, "Expanding the Genetic Code of *Escherichia coli* with Phosphoserine," deals with using *E. coli* bacteria to manipulate the genetic coding of protein molecules. The process described in the paper will impact future scientific efforts in protein engineering, molecular biology and disease research.

Osborne, who has taught at ASU since 2008, began work on the project when she was at New England BioLabs Inc. (NEB) in Ipswich, Mass. The project was a collaboration between researchers at NEB and researchers at Yale University led by Dr. Dieter Söll, a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Scott Hasson

Dr. Scott Hasson, a professor of physical therapy since 2007, has been appointed to the Sports Training and Rehabilitation Committee (STRC) of the China Olympic Committee to assist the Chinese Olympic Team in training for and competing in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

A specialist in orthopedic rehabilitation, Hasson is one

of five non-Chinese international members chosen to join the STRC. While initially serving in an advisory capacity, Hasson may eventually travel to China to help its Olympic team train as well as accompany the team to the London Olympics.

The Olympic appointment is the latest honor for Hasson, who also received the Outstanding Physical Therapy Researcher Award from the Texas Physical Therapy Association in October.

George Pacheco Jr.

Dr. George Pacheco Jr., an assistant professor of communication, has been named the University Educator of the Year by the Texas Speech Communication Association (TSCA).

Pacheco was honored along with nominees from the TSCA's 20 Texas districts at the organization's 2011 convention in October. Each year, the TSCA recognizes top communication educators from junior high to university levels. Nominees must demonstrate teaching excellence as well as be an active TSCA member with significant service to the group for at least five years.

An ASU faculty member since 2007, Pacheco teaches classes in intercultural, small group and nonverbal communication, as well as public speaking and rhetoric of humor. His research interests in-

clude first-generation college students, critical-cultural communication, Hispanic/Latino communication and rhetorical/qualitative methodologies.

Abraham Morland

Abraham Morland, a cadet in ROTC Detachment 847, received the Top Gun Award as the highest performing cadet in his flight at a field training course last summer at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and Camp Shelby Army Base in Mississippi.

Also named a Distinguished Graduate of the course, Morland has been invited to return next summer as a cadet training assistant, along with fellow ASU cadet Jaymes Trimble.

A junior security studies and cultural competency major, Morland was one of 23 cadets in his field training flight for the four-week course that must be completed by all U.S. cadets pursuing commissions in the Air Force through ROTC.

Other ASU cadets who attended the field training course were Mario Allen, Kenneth Chalupa, Emily Chase, Mary Cooper, Brittany Dunaway, Brian Kelly, Monique Lockwood, Jason Slover, Kirk Trevena and Allysen Vance.

Lynsey Gold

Music major Lynsey Gold has been awarded a Clara Fresh-hour Nelson Music Scholar-

ship from the Texas Association of Music Schools (TAMS).

A clarinet student from Junction, Gold will receive \$6,000 a year for four years, as long as she continues to meet eligibility criteria. She is one of only six recipients statewide of the scholarship in the TAMS' Four-Year State University Division.

To qualify for the Nelson Scholarship, students must apply during the second semester of their freshman year and submit academic details, reference letters, a musical demonstration CD and an essay.

TAMS was founded in 1938 to advance the cause of music in higher education generally and to improve the quality and program of the music education system in Texas.

Benjamin Ellery

Senior mathematics major Benjamin Ellery has been awarded a Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA) scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year.

The annual TASPA scholarships are designated for students in their final year of college seeking initial teacher certification and/or endorsement. Ellery, the fifth ASU student to earn a TASPA scholarship since 2003, will receive \$2,000.

TASPA works in conjunction with the Texas Association for Employment in Education in administering the

scholarships on member campuses. Only one application is permitted annually from each participating university. Typically, fewer than five scholarships are awarded each year.

Amy Williamson

Dr. Amy Williamson, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, has been named an Emerging Leader by Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leaders program recognizes top educators under age 40 from around the world for their leadership and vision in the field of education. Williamson was one of 18 honorees selected worldwide for their professional accomplishments.

A program advisor for ASU secondary teacher certification candidates, Williamson teaches and coordinates the courses that students are required to complete for certification. She also serves as advisor to the ASU student chapter of the Texas State Teachers Association.

Rodgers Awards Recipients

Cindy Weeaks, Dr. Crosby Jones Jr. and Heather Valle were named winners of the inaugural Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards honoring outstanding administrators, faculty and staff during a fall presentation ceremony.

Weeaks, director of registrar services, won the Distinguished Administrator Award. Jones, professor of biology, earned the Distinguished Faculty Award. Valle, coordinator for student organizations, received the Distinguished Staff Award. A \$2,500 honorarium accompanied the award.

An ASU graduate and employee since 1996, Weeaks was honored for her dedication to the university and her office, being an active student recruiter and her continued work to improve the processes of her office and the Banner computer system used to manage student records.

A biology faculty member for more than 30 years, Jones was honored for his teaching abilities, campus and community involvement, mentorship of student research and promotion of school spirit.

An ASU staff member since 2008, Valle coordinates and advises the more than 100 ASU student organizations. She was honored for her commitment to the ASU student body and her work on numerous campus committees dedicated to student involvement.

The Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards were created and funded by San Angelo native and former ASU student Gary Rodgers and his wife, Pat. Because of their association with many ASU employees over the years, the

couple recognized the roles that faculty, staff and administrators perform to help ASU fulfill its mission to prepare students to be responsible and productive citizens.

Robert Ehlers Jr.

A book written by Dr. Robert Ehlers Jr., director of the Center for Security Studies and head of the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice, has been selected for the 2010 Best Air Power History Book Award by the U.S. Air Force Historical Foundation (AFHF).

Ehlers' book, *Targeting the Third Reich: Air Intelligence and the Allied Bombing Campaigns*, was published by University Press of Kansas as part of its "Modern War Studies" series. The book examines the role air intelligence played both in allied bombing campaigns and in ground force operations against Nazi Germany in World War II.

More than 120 posters by Honors students throughout the U.S. were submitted for the contest, with the winners chosen by a panel of Honors Program directors and deans. ■

The Best Air Power History Book Award is given annually by the AFHF to the author of the top book on an air power topic of historical interest from the preceding calendar year. An independent panel of judges selects the winning book from nearly 150 works reviewed each year in the AFHF's journal, *Air Power History*.

Ehlers received his award during the AFHF's 2011 Symposium in November at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

Yolanda Elias

Honors Program senior Yolanda Elias won a "Best of Show" award in the 2011 National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Poster Competition at the NCHC National Conference last October in Phoenix.

A mathematics/English double major from Seminole, Elias took first place in the Mathematics/Computer Science category for her poster that illustrated her research project "The Effect of Color Space on Wavelet Image Compression." Her faculty advisor was Dr. Roger Zarnowski, head of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

More than 120 posters by Honors students throughout the U.S. were submitted for the contest, with the winners chosen by a panel of Honors Program directors and deans. ■

State of the Arts

by Tom Nurre with photos

FROM THE CASTING OF CERAMICS to community theatre and from the crashing of cymbals to the crooning of classical music, Angelo State University maintains a pervasive presence in the thriving San Angelo fine arts scene.

With Dr. David Scott, head of the Art and Music Department, leading by example, ASU faculty are fully involved with and often a driving force behind local efforts to provide the best of art, theatre and music entertainment and appreciation for the entire West Texas region.

I can't think of a single member of our department faculty that isn't actively involved in either organizing or making art and music, Scott said. Everybody who plays an orchestral instrument has been involved with the San Angelo Symphony as a performer. Everybody on our art faculty is involved with the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts (SAMFA), Chicken Farm Art Center or other regional art organizations. There is a gigantic amount of outreach that goes on from our faculty.

With music and all the arts, he added, they are easy to be considered frills or not an important part of a community. San Angelo doesn't think that. San Angelo knows that art and music are an important part of what gives San Angelo its identity. We have a vibrant fine arts community in all its forms.



David Scott

art

CONTINUOUSLY THROUGHOUT EACH FALL and spring semester, the public is invited on campus to view a series of art displays by ASU students and faculty as well as guest artists from around the country. In 2011 alone, four public art exhibits included paintings, drawings, wall reliefs, prints, mixed-media pieces and ceramics.

But, the overall impact of the ASU art faculty can be seen even more vividly in their off-campus efforts.

Scott said, "The firemen's statue that sat in front of San Angelo City Hall, that's actually by John Vinklerek, our sculptor on campus." The statue is currently in storage during ongoing City Hall renovations.

"Steve Apodaca is a ceramicist," Scott added, "so his work is a little smaller, but it's in homes and museums throughout the country. Peggy Niño, one of our great painters, doesn't do murals and those outside

sorts of things, so her work is also not quite as obvious sometimes."

"However," Scott said, "since its opening in 1999, SAMFA has had a show of our faculty's work every other summer. Every two years, our faculty get a museum show that any artist would just kill for. If you are on the ASU art faculty, you are going to be part of a show every two years in a major regional museum. All seven of our faculty members contribute."

Ceramics also plays a major role in ASU's involvement in the local arts. As co-host with SAMFA of the annual San Angelo Ceramic Invitational Exhibition and Symposium each April, ASU helps welcome some of the finest ceramic artists and connoisseurs for a week of exhibits, contests and panel discussions.

Apodaca has been involved with the symposium since he arrived at ASU in 1989. It was originally an ASU event until SAMFA Director Howard Taylor asked if the museum could get in on the act.

"That was great," Apodaca said, "because there was a bigger venue at the museum



Peggy Niño



Theatre

for showing work. Mr. Taylor tells the story about how, the first year we had the symposium, we went out under a tree and had a symposium with seven people. That was cool because everything starts small, and now it has become this huge event for West Texas.”

In even-numbered years, the symposium includes a ceramics competition. In odd-numbered years, invited artists are featured. Apodaca has been an invited artist, and has had numerous students submit pieces for showing. That is quite a feat for students, considering the level of competition.

“The competition is open internationally,” Apodaca said. “Canadian artists enter all the time. Several artists from Central and South America have entered along with a lot of U.S. artists. Usually there are about 500 people who are interested enough to enter. Each artist is allowed to submit three images, and from them the juror selects only about 125 pieces.”

Ceramics has become such an important part of ASU’s collaboration with SAMFA that Apodaca actually conducts some of his classes at the museum. Involvement with the museum and other local art organizations has also helped the ASU art program grow from about 50 students when Apodaca arrived to more than 130 today. ASU now also offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and there is potential for adding a master’s program.

“We have one of the major art museums in Texas,” Apodaca said. “We have the Chicken Farm Art Center, the ASU art program and the local art club. There are lots of things going on and lots of people working together. Our students go into the community for their internships to get real-world experience. We are all interconnected, and it is really great.”



Leslie Mayrand

FEATURING AT LEAST SIX PRODUCTIONS a year, including summer and holiday dinner theatres, ranging from Shakespeare to Rogers and Hammerstein to modern comedies and dramas, the ASU theatre program annually draws hundreds of community members to campus for evenings of artful entertainment.

Ironically, though, with the drama faculty completely wrapped up with student productions, the major ASU involvement in off-campus theatre comes from departments not normally associated with the fine arts.

Perhaps the most visible ASU contributor to the Angelo Civic Theatre is Dr. Leslie Mayrand, dean of the College of Health and Human Services and former head of the Nursing Department. She started at the civic theatre in the 1990s directing or acting in about 15 shows before taking an eight-year break and then returning in 2010.

“For the past two years, the civic theatre has been using guest directors,” Mayrand said. “Instead of using a resident director, they invite community members who have either a degree or a background in theatre to come and direct a show. So, that is how I got back into directing again.”

Armed with her drama bachelor’s degree that she earned from the University of the Incarnate Word simultaneously with her nursing degree, Mayrand is a perfect fit at Angelo Civic Theatre. Her most recent directorial effort in the summer of 2011 was “Red, White and Tuna” about a small Texas town’s colorful characters gathering for a Fourth of July celebration. The two-person cast featured Dr. Trey Smith of the mathematics faculty and Casey Baccus, Mayrand’s administrative assistant, playing multiple roles, including women.

“The ASU community came out en masse,” Mayrand said. “It was quite fabulous to see the university supporting its own, if you will. It was also just a blast. It was so much fun to work with Trey and Casey, and we just had a great time. We’re hoping to do a sequel.”

Smith has been involved with Angelo Civic Theatre since 1999. Credit for his acting enthusiasm goes to his wife, Laura, who is theatre director at San Angelo Central High School and holder of an ASU drama degree. In fact, she was directly responsible for Smith’s first civic theatre role in “Dracula, The Musical.”

“They needed someone to play a particular role, and the director called me and said that my wife said I would do it,” Smith recalled. “What they needed was someone who could sing. I could carry a tune, so they asked me to do it, and I ended up playing Van Helsing.”

From there, Smith has progressed to playing 10 different characters in “Red, White and Tuna.”

“If you spend any time at all reading plays or looking at plays, you want to do ‘Red, White and Tuna,’” Smith said. “It was just a great opportunity. But, it was also challenging playing several different characters and dressing in drag to play Vera Carp.”

Smith’s co-actor for that show, Baccus, started with Angelo Civic Theatre in 2007 doing both technical work and acting. An enthusiastic thespian since he was a 12-year-old performer at summer camp, Baccus as an ASU student appeared in about 15 university productions, including the lead role in “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.”

“Even when I was performing as a student, I felt I was representing ASU,” Baccus said. “Now that I’m staff, I feel like I’m carrying that on. I think it is great that I get to represent ASU in the community that way, whether it is with the civic theatre or anything else I do.”

Mayrand, Smith and Baccus all plan to continue their involvement with Angelo Civic Theatre. Baccus also hopes to form a traveling improv troupe for performances similar to the TV show “Who’s Line is it Anyway?” Meanwhile, Mayrand is writing a play, “Real Squirrels of Tom Green County,” spoofing the “Real Housewives of...” reality TV shows.



Trey Smith (top) and Casey Baccus in *Red, White and Tuna*

“I think we have an obligation to be involved in our community,” Mayrand said. “Whatever gifts or background that we have, if we can give something back to our community, I think it is a good thing to do. It makes for healthy relationships between the university and local organizations.”

“I’m excited because I’m seeing a lot of our students becoming involved in the community arts, and that is always refreshing,” she added. “There are also some good collaborations forming between the different arts groups in helping to promote one another. So, I think we’ve got a very vibrant local arts community.”



Pamela Lee

Choral

ACTIVITIES

ternoon and evening rehearsals. The group also joins the Concert Chorale for one performance each semester.

“Last year, they did the Brahms ‘Requiem’ with us in the fall,” Lee said. “The previous fall, they joined us for Handel’s ‘Messiah.’ It is usually the bigger works with a small chamber orchestra that we combine for. I’m hoping one day that the Community Chorale grows to a size where it can function separately or can join with us for double-chorus works. That would be a great opportunity for my students and the community singers.”

While awaiting those future opportunities, though, Lee has already seen the benefits of mingling her choir students with Community Chorale members, who range from 20- and 30-somethings to baby boomers and senior citizens.

“I think the older singers provide really good role models for the younger students,” Lee said. “The students get to see the level of commitment and responsibility the com-

munity members put into it, and learn from that. Some of the younger students may even feel like they’ve got surrogate parents. That may sound kind of corny, but I’ve seen it happen.”

“For the older singers, it seems to make them young again,” she added. “It’s a great dynamic to work in, and everyone really gets along well. It’s just a wonderful thing to see. When I retire, I’ll probably be coming up here to sing with them.”

Looking at the bigger picture, Lee also sees the overall advantages of having the public involved in campus activities.

“I think that anything the university does in terms of outreach to give community members ‘ownership’ in the institution is a plus for us,” Lee said. “It tends to make people want to become more involved and come to other things on campus. They come to the athletic events, the theatre productions, the music concerts and the lectures. Hopefully, some of them who are parents will then send their kids to ASU as students.”



Jeff Womack, John Irish, Michael Yenny, Ed Surface and Tim Bonenfant

Music

PARTICULARLY IN THE MONTHS OF APRIL and November, ASU provides numerous campus opportunities for the public to enjoy quality instrumental musical entertainment. Whether their tastes run toward jazz, classical, big-band pops or the contemporary, there is a musical offering for just about everyone, and at a very reasonable price.

“Most of our concerts are open free to the public,” Scott said. “We only charge admission to one concert a year, and it’s a fundraiser. A community member can come here and listen to a solo student recital, a faculty recital or any of our large ensembles when they give their performances. We encourage the public to come find out what our students and faculty are doing and hear the really great music being made here.”

Many members of the music faculty can also be seen performing for the San Angelo Symphony Orchestra (SASO), including John Irish, Tim Bonenfant, Ed Surface, Jeff Womack and Michael Yenny. ASU also hosts SASO’s Sorantin International Young Artist

Competition every fall. Scott leads the way by serving on the SASO Board of Directors, now in his seventh year.

“The role I’m in with the symphony is really just giving back to the community,” Scott said. “Most of the members of the symphony board are music lovers who are patrons. With my training and background, it’s a little bit more than being a patron. Hopefully, it’s giving back with some expertise to help with decisions or mission statements that my background can be a help to.”

In addition to his symphony efforts, Scott has also directed the San Angelo Community Band (SACB) since 2004. Organized 23 years ago by former ASU Band Director Harris Brinson, the SACB is composed of musicians from all walks of life who gather to play five concerts a year, including the annual July 3rd Pops Concert at San Angelo’s RiverStage.

Scott said, “The fact that here in San Angelo we can put together a free concert that is attended by anywhere from 20,000



Constance Kelley

to 30,000 people, that the entire city plans for and shuts down for and makes arrangements for, even if it’s just for a weekend, has been a really great thing to be a part of. The fact that I get to wave my arm and have cannons go off, that’s kind of cool, too.”

Another opportunity for local musicians to dust off their instruments and join a performing group is the Concho Valley Community Flute Choir organized in 2009 by ASU music faculty member Constance Kelley.



Halloween Spooktacular



Photo by Danny Meyer

Getting Connected

by Jayna Phinney

Often, business success can be all about making the right connections.

Angelo State graduate James B. Campbell found that out first-hand when he decided in the spring of 2010 to purchase Robert Massie Funeral Home near downtown San Angelo. Despite 15 years in the funeral business, he was in a little bit over his head.

“I knew the funeral business, but I didn’t know the loan process,” Campbell said.

In his search for funding, Campbell learned that financial institutions wanted detailed projections and business plans. The loan officers Campbell contacted recommended that he connect with the ASU Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for help in improving his loan application.

“My experience gave me knowledge of the funeral business,” Campbell said. “My business degree gave me the confidence and capabilities to run a business, and the SBDC helped me go from worker to owner. They helped me bridge that gap.”

Since its inception 22 years ago, the SBDC has been engaged in the business community, helping people like Campbell realize their dreams and often acting as a “connector” to get local and area individuals and businesses the information and resources they need to be successful.

“All the local business resources work together so well in the community,” said Jessica Lambert, SBDC business development training coordinator. “We know a lot of the answers, but we also make a lot of referrals.”

With its staff of seven, the SBDC has two main components: advising and training. Staff members advise businesses about such topics as initial start-up, business planning, financing, human resources, marketing and other needs that may arise. About 80 seminars are offered every year to serve as training opportunities on issues relevant to small businesses.

“What we hear very often from our clients is, ‘We could not have done this without your help,’” said SBDC Director David Erickson. “We coach, mentor, guide and serve as a sounding board, but we don’t do the work for them. However, we will work the hours necessary to help them as long as they are engaged, and we do this free of charge and confidentially.”

For the SBDC to share its business knowledge, its staff members have to practice what they preach. They regularly visit and network with local businesses, work to market the center’s services and plan events to help individuals and businesses make connections. Funded primarily by state and federal grants, the SBDC provides services to San Angelo and the 10 surrounding counties that make up the Concho Valley.

Since it opened its doors in 1989, the SBDC has also been an important component of ASU’s community outreach efforts, aiding about 500 clients a year, the majority of them first-time visitors. The center is also a prime example of “community-engaged active learning,” the focus of ASU’s *Quality Enhancement Plan* to reaffirm its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The SBDC puts clients in touch with several ASU academic departments, as well as with the Texas Tech University System Office of Technology Commercialization, as a way of getting people the information that

they need. As part of the South-West Texas Border SBDC Network based in San Antonio, the SBDC has access to a mountain of business resources, much of which reflects the current declines in the economy.

“We focus on helping clients,” Erickson said. “We don’t focus on statistics, but it is good to have access to that information so that we can guide our clients.”

With an eye on being even more accessible and extending its community outreach efforts, the SBDC this year will move from its ASU campus offices into the new Business Resource Center that is being constructed inside the old Coca-Cola administration building at 69 N. Chadbourne St. in downtown San Angelo.

The new Business Resource Center, which has been in the works since 2007, is designed to be a one-stop shop for all economic development and business assistance efforts in San Angelo and the Concho Valley. Other entities that will be leasing space alongside the SBDC are the City of San Angelo Development Corp., Concho Valley Workforce Development Board, Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development (the “Business Incubator”) and the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Division. These groups already have a joint website, www.cvbiz.org, which the SBDC maintains.

“The website is a portal to get people to the information they need,” Erickson said. “The Business Resource Center is a physical location that will function in the same way.”

The Business Resource Center, as well as the SBDC, is focused on helping the small businesses that

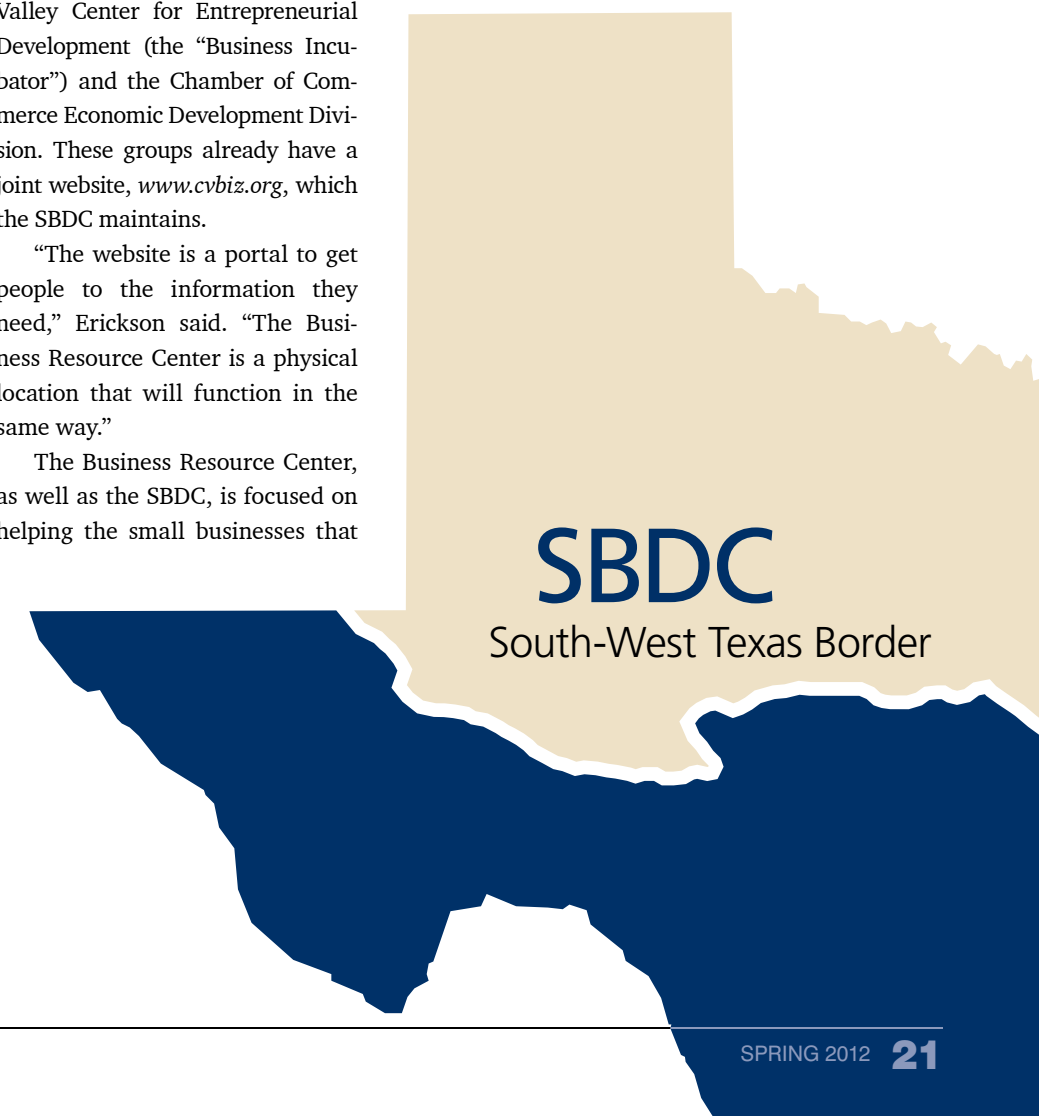
are the lifeblood of communities like San Angelo. The U.S. Small Business Administration generally defines small businesses as those with 500 or fewer employees. Businesses in the service industry also need to have less than \$21.5 million in annual receipts, while retail industry businesses must have less than \$21 million.

Because the vast majority of businesses in San Angelo and the Concho Valley qualify as small businesses, Erickson and the SBDC staff know it is important to have resources to get them the help they need.

For instance, Campbell of Robert Massie Funeral Home was able to add two additional employees to his payroll after he purchased the business. He also contributes to the local economy by paying taxes and purchasing goods and services, such as catering and cleaning, from other local businesses.

Campbell’s experience is just one of 200 success stories since 2003 that area businesses have felt compelled to attribute to the SBDC.

That is a lot of connections. ■



Strong Bodies, Stronger Hearts

by Becky Brackin



Ashley James

What Angelo State University athletes do on the playing fields or courts may be their most visible activities, but what they do in the community may be their greatest accomplishments.

Simple contact with another human being in need can offer a precious gift, but the greater reward often goes to the gift-giver.

Student-athletes at ASU learn invaluable lessons like this when they volunteer for various organizations and causes – Breast Cancer Awareness, United Blood Services, Salvation Army and more.

“We have participated with Meals for the Elderly,” said Megan Schaffer, president of ASU’s Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC). “We raise money for Make-A-Wish Penny Wars each spring. We participate in a canned food drive in November and an Angel Tree in December. We volunteer for the Soup Kitchen.”

Schaffer listed a spring egg hunt for children and a clothes drive for the family shelter among activities the student-athletes organize. As a senior English major and ASU soccer player, Schaffer speaks from multiple perspectives, including her position as president of SAAC, which promotes and organizes joint efforts by ASU athletic teams.

Head football coach Will Wagner sees that his team is on the volunteer scene, as well. In addition to helping with several other causes,

Rams football players pitched in with the San Angelo Neighborhood Blitz, painting seven houses in one day.

Community involvement is a key tenet in college athletics, and organized efforts are part of a bigger picture.

“Volunteerism is a major part of what we do in SAAC and also is a major part of the Lone Star Conference mission,” Schaffer added. “We believe we are very fortunate to have the support from the community at our athletic events, and community service is our way of giving back. We try to hold one community service event a month.”

ASU athletes live a rigorous schedule with full academic class loads, personal training, team practices, travel and games. Although they work practically around the clock to keep their minds sharp and their bodies strong, the community service they do is important for their perspectives on life.

Women’s basketball coach Sally Brooks said, “We are fortunate to be here. I am fortunate to have what I have. And, our athletes are blessed to play sports they love. Not everyone is so blessed.”

Brooks and assistant women’s basketball coach Stacy Duffell both came to ASU from San Antonio’s Incarnate Word University, where student-athletes were required to get involved in community service. Brooks and Duffell saw the benefit and continued the practice in San Angelo.

“The athletes often get more out of it than the people they help,” Brooks said.

In addition to providing another team-building experience for athletes who benefit personally through interaction with others in need, such community engagement helps local organizations achieve more visibility and potentially raise more funds with the involvement of a college athletic team.

Wagner said, “It’s a way for us to give back to the community that supports us. It allows the guys to bond over something more than football. It fosters that attitude of giving, which is an important trait to have

as these young men leave college and head out in to the real world.”

“I just think it’s important to teach them that you have something to give, whether it’s time, talent or treasure,” Wagner said. “Everyone can help give back to the community in some way. Also, this is our hometown that supports our team, and I feel strongly about giving back to it. It helps to get our name out into the community as well.”

Schaffer echoed that sentiment.

“If anything, we want people to know we care and that we appreciate everything the community does to support the athletes,” she said.

Head baseball coach Kevin Brooks believes in community engagement as well and can easily list projects that his team has supported – the Alzheimer’s walk, Cheyenne’s rally, Healthy Families Children’s Fair, Bowie Elementary School’s fall festival and more.

“It benefits the team by developing camaraderie and teamwork outside of baseball,” he said.

Members of the Rams and ’Belles teams have delivered routes for Meals for the Elderly, which prepares and distributes hot meals daily for homebound recipients. According to Meals for the Elderly President and CEO Charlyn Ocker, all too often that delivery is the only human contact their clients have each day.

“When we deliver Meals for the Elderly, a lot of times it is for people who are older and don’t have a lot of contact with other people,” Schaffer said. “When we stop by, they invite us in and tell us about themselves and their families. We give them attention that they wouldn’t otherwise get.”

Head volleyball coach Chuck Waddington said this contact makes a wonderful difference for the client, but it also leaves a lasting impression with the volunteers.

“Just seeing how some of the recipients cherished someone spending just a little time talking with them made our team members appreciate the impact they can have on someone’s life,” he said.

ASU junior Ashley “A.J.” James plays basketball for the ’Belles. Two causes – Meals for the Elderly and the Cheyenne Fiveash Motorcycle Rally for Children’s Miracle Network – stand out as especially meaningful for her.

“The first time I delivered our Meals route I thought, ‘I’ve got so much going on,’” James said. “As soon as I got to the first house, I realized it means the world to the clients that we are there.”

James said her eyes were opened with Cheyenne’s rally, as well.

“As a freshman, I didn’t know what I was getting into until we got there,” she said. “I heard Cheyenne’s story for the first time and it gave me goose bumps.”

Cheyenne Fiveash from nearby Christoval was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2003. She died in October 2004 at age 13. She loved sports in general and especially loved the ’Belles basketball team. Older ’Belles met Cheyenne and made her an honorary teammate with jersey number 00, bringing untold joy to her short life.

Athletes develop a special bond with children by visiting their schools and conducting camps for younger children, who look up to them.

“Our team might talk with students or run drills with them,” Sally Brooks said. “Elementary schools are pushing going to college, and our athletes are great role models.”

Though the causes may vary by team, participation by ASU athletes makes a difference for each.

“Anytime we can put a personal touch on something,” Waddington said, “it makes those people and causes remember that we care about them.”

Beyond that, Waddington believes that community involvement makes players think outside of themselves for a bit.

“We want our players to grow as people, not just as athletes,” Waddington said. “Community service allows that to happen in a way that really can touch our players on an individual level.” ■



Megan Schaffer delivers a meal to Carol Nichols

Photos by Danny Meyer

Federal Bricks, Community Mortar

by Preston Lewis

A year's worth of work by three Angelo State University history students has revived a century's worth of history for the O.C. Fisher Federal Building at 33 E. Twohig Ave. in downtown San Angelo.

ASU history majors Sarah Sanchez of San Angelo, Kagan Box of Seminole and Kain Tomlin of Marble Falls began the work in Dr. Jason Pierce's Introduction to Public History course and then continued the research under the direction of history master's student Heather Wylie of San Angelo in the Historical Preservation, Research and Writing course. Their research culminated in the production of a brochure and a website in time for the building's centennial this past fall.

To put the Fisher Building in historical perspective, when it opened in 1911 San Angelo had just surpassed 10,000 in population; William Howard Taft was president and future president Ronald Reagan was born; New Mexico and Arizona were just territories; first-class postage was two cents; federal spending stood at \$690 million; and the *Titanic* was still unsinkable.

Sanchez, a history buff since the fifth grade when she was captivated by the idealism of the American Revolution, said "Just

like all buildings, the Federal Building has its own history. There was a lot of work that went into the development and the construction of the building. Many different historical figures in San Angelo also aided in the construction. Edward Blanchard, Joseph Tweedy and others all played a part in the building's development. It was a great project to be a part of."

Fellow student Box, whose historical interests lie in the rise of urban America and the Civil Rights Movement, said, "What surprised me the most during my work was the great enthusiasm from the community that was seen throughout the making and finished work of the project. It was really amazing to see people care and be so involved in their heritage and local history."

Originally built to house San Angelo's post office and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the Italian Renaissance Revival-style building opened in 1911. At the time, it was a symbol to local residents that San Angelo had solidified as a city with an unlimited future. The building was expanded in 1932, and in 1980 was re-named for O.C. Fisher, a San Angelo lawyer and Kimble County rancher, who served

as a U.S. Congressman from 1943-74. The building has continuously served the citizens of the San Angelo region for 100 years.

"Historic structures tell us about ourselves," said historian Pierce. "They encapsulate our origins, our hopes and our desires for ourselves and our communities. They are a lot more than just bricks and mortar. Historians, I think, should try to engage the larger community because we have the tools to interpret a past that can't speak for itself."

Sanchez, Box and Tomlin gave voice to the Federal Building after Joyce Lowe, the deputy-in-charge of the San Angelo Division of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, contacted the ASU History Department for help in celebrating the structure's centennial.

"Working on a project like this," Lowe said, "makes the relationship between the university and the community tangible. As Dr. Pierce stated in his presentation, there is a real partnership, and it is one of which I am very proud and which I hope to see continue."

"It was very important to me that our celebration of the centennial of the building be meaningful, relevant and inclusive," she continued. "The first thing I thought of when

contemplating how to make it so was to involve Angelo State. Not only would the partnership enhance the relationship between the community and ASU, but the students would take the story back to their home communities, wherever they may be from. The story gets carried farther. Additionally, federal representatives from around the state and Washington, D.C., had the opportunity to become aware of Angelo State University."

"With our public history courses," said Pierce, "we are attempting to have students do the actual work of historians, to get real-world, hands-on experience that will benefit them in whatever career they end up choosing. Our O.C. Fisher project allowed my students to do just that. They looked at old manuscripts – some of which had been tucked away in the building for years – and photos, and they even interviewed people who work in the building."

Such work, Pierce believes, is community engagement of the first order because it provides great learning opportunities for ASU students on projects beyond the campus. At the same time, it offers support for research that others might not have the time, money or skills to conduct on their own.



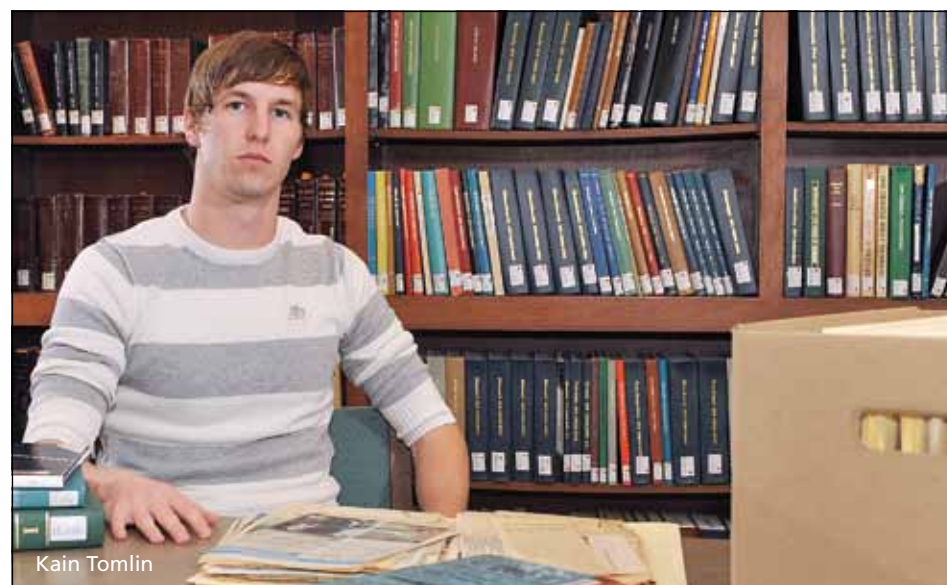
Jason Pierce

Pierce said, "This project serves as an example of the valuable role students can play in serving a community and documenting its history. Their work has broadened our understanding of the O.C. Fisher Federal Building and its place in our history. This is information that might otherwise have been lost to us."

Lowe summed up the results succinctly. "The students brought the history of our building to life," she said.

When Pierce spoke about the student project at the centennial celebration, he talked about partnerships.

"I thought partnerships provided a great metaphor for what we were doing: partnerships between ASU and the community, partnerships between the federal government and the community and," Pierce concluded, "partnerships between ourselves and those who came before us." ■



Kain Tomlin



Sarah Sanchez and Kagan Box

Photos by Danny Meyer

Skunk

by Tom Nurre

TV

Pepé Le Pew's cousins have gone Japanese.

With the help of some Angelo State graduate students, two “lucky” West Texas striped skunks recently made their small-screen debuts on the Japanese public television network NHK. Over the course of three days last October, they went from being unknown varmints to TV stars as they were filmed for the animal documentary series “Darwin Ga Kita!,” which translates to “Darwin Has Come!”

According to Tomoo Sono, the New York-based researcher and coordinator for the project, the network wanted to do something special for the New Year's Day episode of the show and decided on skunks.

“NHK is the oldest broadcast network in Japan,” Sono said. “We have lots of footage, even very old footage in black and white. But, in the entire history of the network, there is no footage of skunks, not even a mention or a small clip. That is amazing because skunks are so familiar, even though we don't have skunks in Japan.”



Photo by Drew Sykes



Photo by Danny Meyer

Wesley Brashear and Eric Pomposelli

“We couldn't find that many researchers who specialize in skunks,” he added. “But, one person we did find was Dr. (Jerry) Dragoo at the University of New Mexico, who happened to be working with Dr. (Robert) Dowler at Angelo State.”

Dragoo came to the attention of NHK through his recent appearance in an episode of the PBS series “Nature.” He is collaborating with Dowler, an ASU biology professor, on a book to be titled *Skunks of Texas*.

“His research is almost totally concentrated on skunks,” Dowler said. “One interesting thing is that he doesn't have a sense of smell. For PBS, he worked with his team to get high-speed photographs of a skunk spraying. It is pretty amazing film footage.”

“He also does skunk rehabilitation,” Dowler added. “If there is an abandoned litter of skunks, he and his wife raise them and release them. But, he had already released all of this year's young, so he didn't have any skunks on hand to work with the Japanese broadcast team. So, he suggested they come talk to me, and it took off from there.”

Once Dowler was able to assure NHK that he could have skunks available for filming, a Tokyo video crew that included popular Japanese TV personality Haruna Ai scheduled the shoot for late October. Due to a scheduling conflict, though, Dowler had to be out of town at that time, so he enlisted biology graduate students Wesley Brashear and Eric Pomposelli to take his place. Dragoo also showed up for the filming.

The plan was to humanely trap skunks for filming at nearby Knickerbocker Ranch, where ASU students have been conducting research projects since the 1960s. During previous projects, a number of skunks on the ranch had been fitted with radio collars, but Brashear and Pomposelli were hoping to catch ones without collars for the show. They both set a series of traps, and were then occupied for a couple of days taking the camera crew around to shoot B-roll, or non-specific footage of the ranch environs.

When Haruna Ai arrived for the final day of filming, it was time for Brashear and Pomposelli to check their traps. Pomposelli's traps were all empty, putting the entire project in jeopardy if Brashear could not produce a skunk for the cameras.

“I just had eight traps set, which is really a low number,” Brashear said. “I got there that morning and they said they were ready for the skunk. So, I went to check my trap line just hoping to find one. As fate would have it, in the last trap, of course, there was a nice healthy striped skunk they could use for filming. And there was no radio collar, so that was good, too.”

While that hurdle was cleared, the language barrier and the camera crew's inexperience with wildlife photography led to further uncertainty.

“The number one thing we had to stress to the film crew,” Pomposelli said, “was the fact that the skunks were our top priority and that we would not do anything that

would endanger the animals, ourselves, the film crew, reporter or anyone around.”

“One of the biggest obstacles in the clash between filmmaking and science,” he added, “is what they want versus what we can give them. Once we were able to convey that these are wild animals, not captive, and that nature is unpredictable, they were able to figure out the direction and their approach to the film.”

Brashear added, “Watching them try to film the skunks up close was pretty funny. They had waterproof cases around their cameras, and they were all decked out in plastic suits with hoods, goggles, face masks and latex gloves. It was like a scene from the movie ‘Contagion.’”

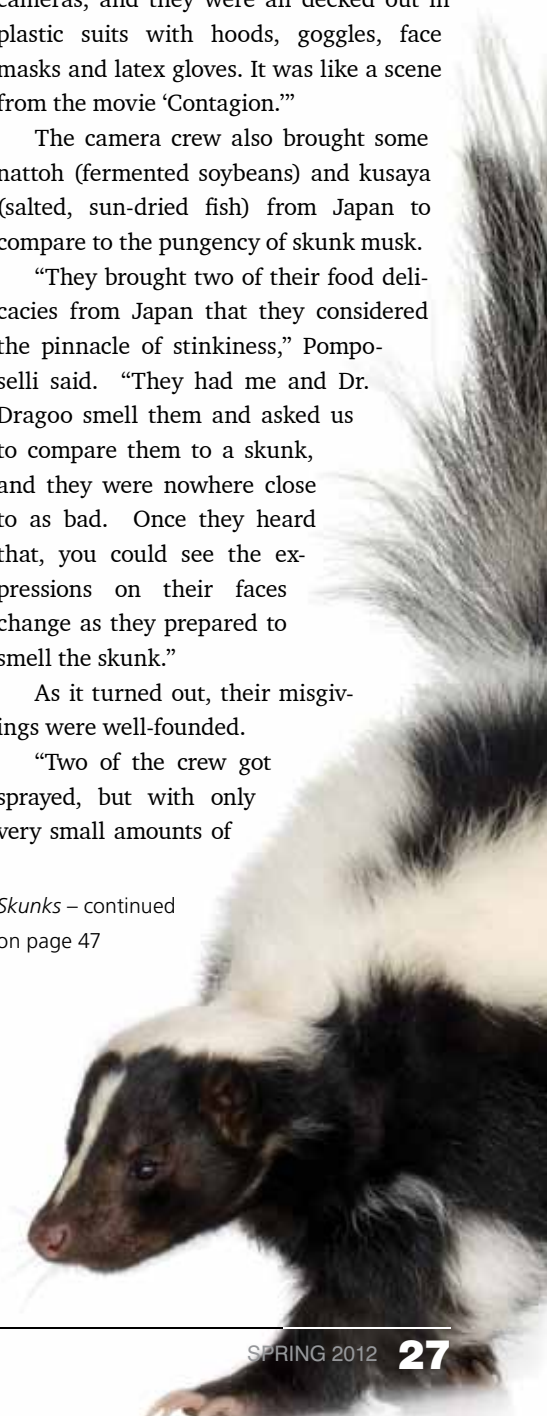
The camera crew also brought some nattoh (fermented soybeans) and kusaya (salted, sun-dried fish) from Japan to compare to the pungency of skunk musk.

“They brought two of their food delicacies from Japan that they considered the pinnacle of stinkiness,” Pomposelli said. “They had me and Dr. Dragoo smell them and asked us to compare them to a skunk, and they were nowhere close to as bad. Once they heard that, you could see the expressions on their faces change as they prepared to smell the skunk.”

As it turned out, their misgivings were well-founded.

“Two of the crew got sprayed, but with only very small amounts of

Skunks – continued
on page 47



i Master Plan 2.0

Though many of the general concepts – creating a new campus gateway, shifting traffic and parking to the perimeters and emphasizing the University Mall in design – have remained the same, the details have changed in the updated facilities master plan for Angelo State University.



Angelo State University Magazine

by Preston Lewis

Possible campus gateway

Originally adopted in 2005, *Centennial Master Plan 2028* has been updated to adapt to new circumstances, funding challenges and revised priorities to better help ASU adjust to the changing educational environment and reach its strategic goals by 2028, the centennial of the university's founding.

"We are modeling for a future that is unclear," said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, "but our aim is to maintain a facilities master plan that will direct growth in line with our academic and programmatic priorities."

Facilities Planning and Construction Director John H. Russell said, "The plan is a tool that will be used to guide the growth of ASU through the next several years, but we will adapt to changing needs and concepts."

An example of adaptation is the change in new residence halls in the updated plan, compared to those proposed in the original master plan seven years ago. Centennial Village, the first major building project finished under the 2005 master plan, had hall-

ways that stretched 960 feet from one end of the U-shaped building to the other.

After the 526-bed Centennial opened to residents in the fall of 2008, staff in both residential programs and facilities planning and construction began to explore more effective use of such space to enhance the residential experience and improve retention. The resulting ideas, including those derived from the experiences with other residence halls on campus and in building Centennial, were incorporated in the design of Plaza Verde, the 416-bed residential facility that opened this past fall.

Instead of a single building, Plaza Verde is made up of four separate three-story housing units with the individual rooms on the perimeter of each floor. Rather than hallways, the individual rooms open out onto a common area that is intended as a vibrant "living room" for hanging out, gaming, studying and visiting. The goal is not only to provide better space utilization, but

also to help first-year students make friends and increase their comfort level and their chances for college success.

Russell said the original plan provided a solid roadmap for both demolition and development. Meyer, Runnels and University halls were demolished and Centennial Village, Plaza Verde and the Campus Green became realities, even if they deviated from the original plan.

"The campus master plan provides general guidance to the campus development and is not a specific blueprint," Russell said. "Once a project begins with the design process, the architects listen to many constituents about what they would like to see and what visions they have for the space. We begin designing based on their needs and generally go through several versions of a plan until we have a general consent regarding the final plan."

While projects such as Plaza Verde, Centennial and the Campus Green are



Plaza Verde construction

Photo by Danny Meyer

highly visible, much of the work implementing the original plan has been less obvious to the public as the university has worked to more closely tie its academic needs with facilities planning.

“We have modified several buildings and classrooms to make them more modern and to provide space that meets the teaching pedagogy needed to engage the students of today,” Russell said. “By more closely coordinating our facilities needs with our academic priorities, we have been able to reach out to the various departments this time in the revised plan to look at the historical growth of the programs and to see what they are projecting in terms of growth. This information provides us with valuable information we can use to predict space needs as a result of that growth. Conversely, if a program shows decline, we can also see what space can be released for others to use.”

So, while the details of the master plan will evolve as administrative strategies and student preferences change, some overriding philosophies are set in the updated master plan.

“Generally in the new master plan,” Russell said, “we wanted to accommodate the new growth goal of 10,000 students by 2020 and to provide adequate space for programs of distinction – agriculture, nursing and teacher education. Also, we had to consider what the recommendation by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to deliver at least 10 percent of our courses

online would do in terms of facilities and infrastructure needs.”

Additionally, the plan seeks to increase space for student support services, provide adequate administrative space and align overall space needs to long-term enrollment projections rather than short-term, year-by-year enrollment numbers.

The master plan’s implementation goals are to 1) accommodate the building program necessary to support 10,000 students with appropriate facilities for their academic, housing, support, recreational and social needs; 2) focus the campus entrances to better delineate campus coherence; 3) create a strong, active campus with appealing outdoor spaces in the core and with vehicular traffic on the perimeters; 4) improve the pedestrian experience on campus; and 5) incorporate public art and architectural craft throughout the campus.

Fully implementing the plan will ultimately require the closing of Johnson Street through the heart of the campus and acquiring additional land on the perimeter to accommodate growth and the need for parking. If implemented as proposed, the main campus entrance would become Avenue N at Johnson Street. Both Johnson and Vanderventer Avenue would be closed to through traffic and the religious centers in that area would be re-located.

“Johnson Street continues to be a challenge in consolidating the campus and fully implementing our vision for what the cam-

pus could be,” Russell said. “The master plan recommends a phased closing of the street, first going through a calming phase by making the street two lanes, and providing crosswalks that also double as speed bumps to the vehicular traffic.”

Should such a change be initiated, Russell said the impact on Johnson traffic would be monitored and evaluated, though other factors will also impact Johnson. For instance, Crockett Elementary School at 2104 Johnson Street is undergoing a major renovation. When completed, Crockett will face onto Varsity Street rather than Johnson. The impact of that change on traffic through the ASU campus will be evaluated after the elementary school project is completed.

Based on the revised master plan, where Johnson Street now intersects University Mall would become a pedestrian plaza surrounded by four new academic buildings and the existing Center for Human Performance. All new structures would be no more than three stories tall, except for a carillon tower that would stand six or more stories above the plaza and provide a vertical campus landmark visible from much of the city.

The goal of the plan is to organize the campus in three general concentric rings with academic facilities in the inner ring or heart of the campus along University Mall. Housing and recreational facilities would make up the middle ring while traffic and parking would be directed to the campus perimeter, or outer ring. Based on current stan-

dards, ASU has adequate parking presently to accommodate an enrollment of 7,500 students with the associated growth in faculty and staff, though the parking is not adjacent to academic facilities. Russell said a trolley system might eventually be implemented to help move students from perimeter parking to their campus destinations.

Ultimately, the plan calls for construction of four new academic buildings, four new residence halls and additions to the University Center, Library, Center for Human Performance and the Food Service Center. A one-stop center for administrative and student services offices is proposed adjacent to the new main entrance at Avenue N.

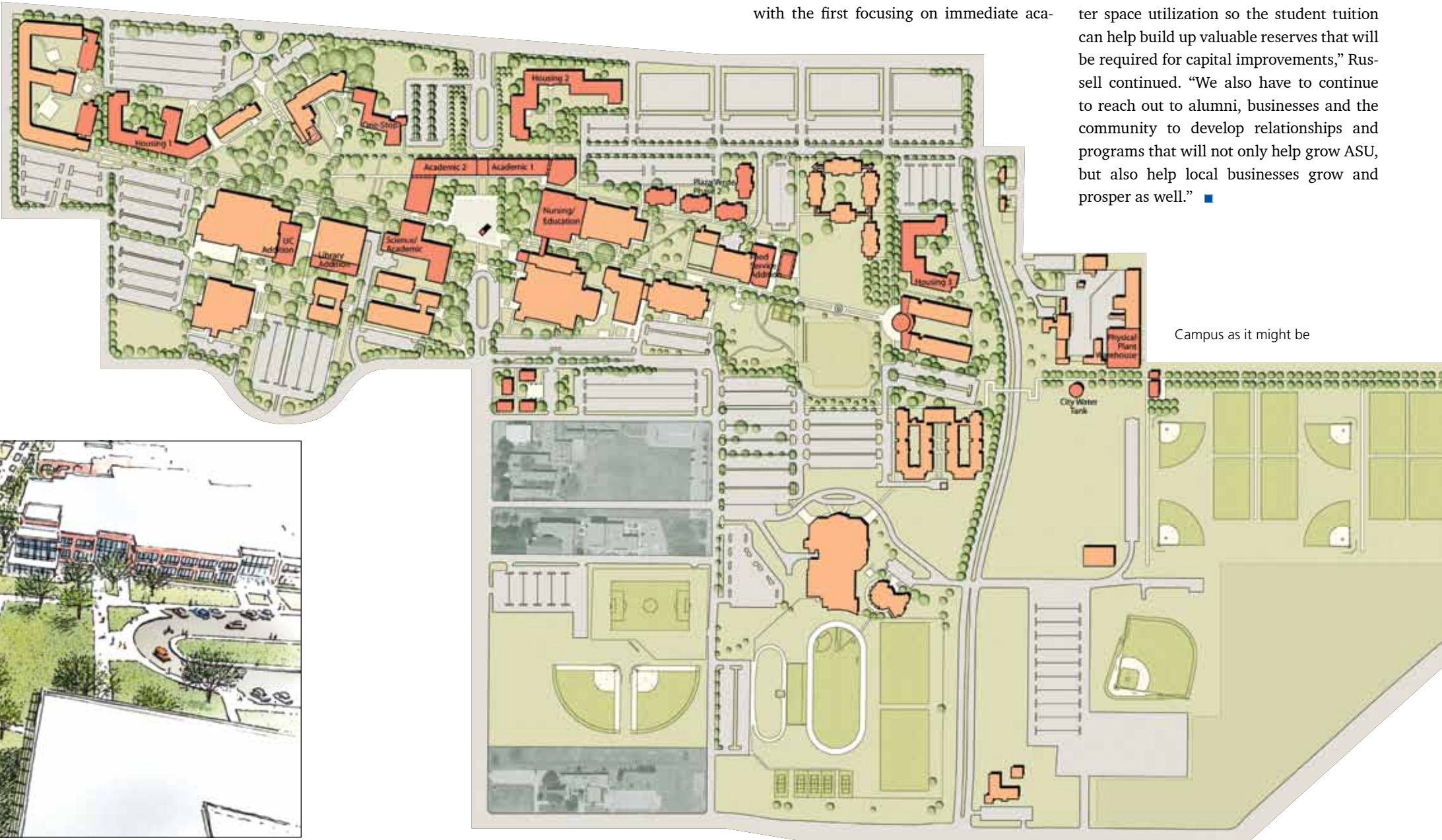
If fully implemented as proposed, the projects would be addressed in two phases with the first focusing on immediate aca-

demical and administrative space needs. The second phase would expand the academic focus and provide additional housing and student support service space.

Everything, though, is dependent upon funding resources. At today’s prices, the construction cost of Phase I would be \$105 million. Phase II would total \$192 million. An additional \$40 million in infrastructure costs would be split between the two phases.

“Based on the past two legislative sessions and the current economy,” Russell said, “I do not envision the legislature providing funding for new buildings in the next session. This means that universities like ASU will have to fund our construction using our own money and debt, in conjunction with donors.”

“This requires that we have much better space utilization so the student tuition can help build up valuable reserves that will be required for capital improvements,” Russell continued. “We also have to continue to reach out to alumni, businesses and the community to develop relationships and programs that will not only help grow ASU, but also help local businesses grow and prosper as well.” ■



Sustainable and Maintainable



John Russell and Joseph Rallo

In the seven years since the original *Centennial Master Plan 2028* was approved in 2005, sustainability has become a guiding concept in the facilities planning and construction on campus.

Factors such as site sustainability, water efficiency, energy/atmospheric impact and materials/resources usage are now incorporated in building and landscaping projects around campus as well as in the updated master plan. From the viewpoint of Facilities Planning and Construction Director John H. Russell, sustainability makes both sense and cents.

“Certainly, we want to be good stewards of our limited resources, especially water,” Russell said. “It is not only the right thing to do, but saves money as well. When incorporated in the planning and design stages, sustainability appears to be adding about 2 percent to the cost of the construction, but the payback is about one-and-one-half to two years, so that is a quick recovery on our investment.”

“Sustainability is not just an adage anymore at Angelo State,” he added, “it is a way we operate.”

For ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, sustainability represents an educational opportunity with a potential impact far beyond campus.

“It’s about making the campus a learning laboratory for students and benefitting their education and habits over a lifetime,” Rallo said. “We are trying to change attitudes by using the campus as a laboratory for lifelong lessons in sustainability. When we succeed with our students, they will leave here with a respect for sustainability that they will incorporate in their lifestyles.”

The new Plaza Verde residential complex is a green milestone for the ASU campus as it is the first facility to qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification, an internationally recognized report card developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in 1998 to assess sustainability factors in new and renovated buildings. Based upon point totals buildings are awarded for energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions

reduction, indoor environmental quality, resource stewardship and local environmental impact, USGBC awards certified, silver, gold and platinum rankings. ASU will find out later this year which USGBC certification Plaza Verde received.

“We want any major new construction or renovation to be LEED Silver at a minimum,” Russell said. “A major renovation project is classified as being a renovation of 75 percent of the facility. In most projects, we will at the least reclaim rainwater from the roof areas for landscape irrigation. This is inexpensive and has a very short payback.”

Regardless of location, sustainability strategies are largely determined by climatic and environmental factors. In a semi-arid region with limited rainfall, high summer temperatures and mild winters, though not without significant temperature swings on occasion, Angelo State stands to gain the most sustainability points from 1) utilizing insulation with a high R-value, which is a measure of thermal resistance; 2) installing or upgrad-

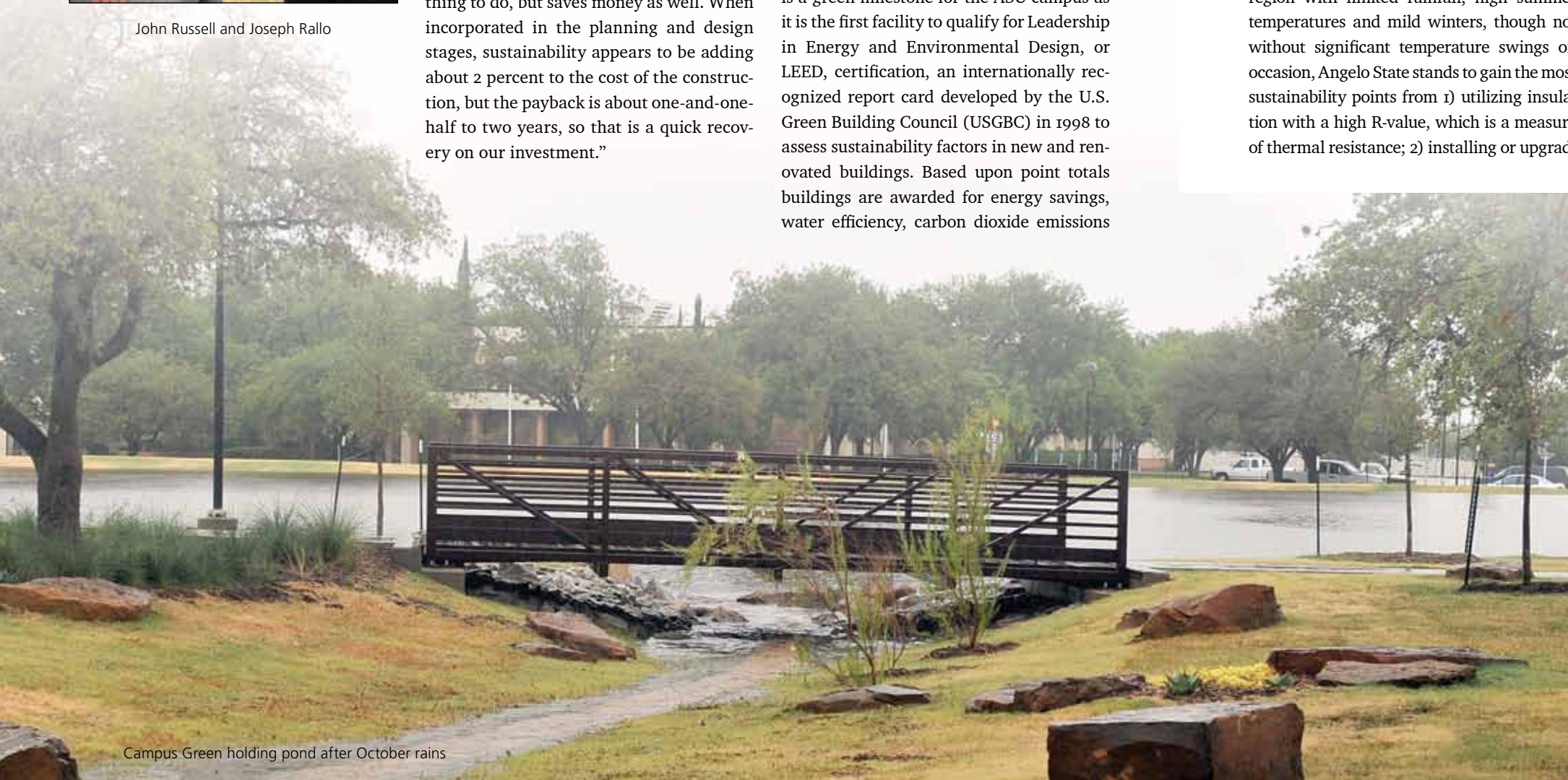
ing to high-efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning, or HVAC, systems; and 3) incorporating water saving devices/techniques into building and landscape design.

For instance, the newest buildings on campus are the five units that make up Plaza Verde, a 416-bed residential facility. Plaza Verde has walls and roofs with an R-50 insulation rating, compared to a typical San Angelo home insulation rating of R-15. High-efficiency windows and screening enhances the insulation value. Additionally, the buildings have a state-of-the-art HVAC system to maximize heating and cooling efficiency. For water conservation, Plaza Verde has a gray-water reuse system to make more efficient use of laundry, shower and lavatory water for non-potable uses.

Both Plaza Verde and the newly expanded Center for Human Performance (CHP) have holding tanks designed to capture runoff water from rainfall. After the three-inch rains the second weekend in October, both Plaza Verde’s 40,000-gallon underground tank and the CHP’s 12,000-gallon surface tank filled up. That water will be used for campus irrigation at a significant long-term savings to the university.

City water rates vary by the time of year, but at the summer rate of \$3.22 per thousand gallons plus various fees for pumping and maintenance, ASU pays approximately \$4.94 per thousand gallons from May through September. At that rate, the storage tanks will mean a savings of a minimum of \$256 in water bills each time they re-fill. Over the 30-year life of the tanks, the savings can amount to thousands of dollars.

“Sustainability strategies, such as the water holding tanks, will be incorporated in all of our future construction projects,” Rallo said, “but this is about more than just capturing rainwater. Ultimately, we want Angelo State to be a model of sustainability for all of West Texas and to serve as an example for our students to follow and incorporate in their lives as they graduate and move on in their careers.” ■



Campus Green holding pond after October rains

Photos by Danny Meyer

Green Reward

In addition to being the right thing to do, sustainability can also bring public recognition to Angelo State University as was the case in the fall when the City of San Angelo named ASU recipient of the Commercial Landscape of the Year Award.

The award recognized the Plaza Verde and Campus Green projects for environmental stewardship in the area of water reallocation. The two projects have helped redefine the eastern end of campus and incorporated multiple water-saving strategies in the design.

An integral part of the Campus Green is the one-acre holding pond which captures runoff water. The Campus Green also incorporates xeriscaping and drought-tolerant plants wherever possible.

The Plaza Verde complex includes a 40,000-gallon, underground water storage tank to capture runoff water. Additionally, the five-building residential facility employs a gray-water reuse system to capture laundry, shower and lavatory water for non-potable uses. ■



Setting the Bar

With its highest win total ever, the Angelo State volleyball team marked 2011 with a season for the ages and a return to the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament for the first time in nearly 20 years.

Under fourth-year head coach Chuck Waddington, ASU has become one of the country's top teams, opening the season 15-0 for the best start in school history en route to a 31-6 overall mark that included a program-record 17 victories in Lone Star Conference play. The 'Belles earned the No. 2 seed in the LSC Tournament and reached the title game for the second consecutive season.

In the NCAA regionals, ASU defeated St. Edward's, 3-2, earning its first tournament victory since 1991. The 'Belles historic season ended at the hands of top-seeded host Central Missouri in the semifinals. Sophomore Kaelen Valdez earned a spot on the NCAA D-II South Central Regional All-Tournament Team.

"I'm super proud of this group," Waddington said. "There is no doubt that we belonged at the NCAAs after the way our girls fought their hearts out in both of those matches. They played great and have nothing to feel bad about. We left everything we had on the court."

Six 'Belles received All-LSC accolades this season. Senior Celeste Bonter and juniors

Chelsea Gibson and Alex Woolsey made the All-LSC first team. Bonter led the team with 376 kills. Gibson had 346 kills to go with 126 total blocks. Woolsey amassed 1,558 assists and moved into the top five in program history with 3,691 total career assists.

Sophomore middle blocker Maddie Huth garnered All-LSC second team honors while senior Debbie Ohl and freshman Shelby Wilt received honorable mention. Kayla Smith, the only four-year senior on the squad, finished her career as the ninth 'Belle in program history with more than 1,000 digs.

The 2011 'Belles entered the American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 poll for the first time since 1992, ascending to No. 16 nationally. Angelo State also made its mark in the South Central Region by defeating seven ranked regional foes and taking top seed Washburn to five sets in a loss at the Lady Blues Classic at Washburn.

"I think this group has set the bar for others to come," Waddington said. "We had goals of being at the top of our conference, making the regional, being ranked in the country. And, we did all those things. Every year that I have been here we have taken another step, and it's because of these kids. I think the future is bright at Angelo State, and it's going to be a great place to be for a long time." ■

Dynamic Duo

by Wes Bloomquist

Assistant coach Qi Wang walked around shooting hook shots with a volleyball and occasionally kicking it like a soccer ball against the wall while on the other end of the court head volleyball coach Chuck Waddington was all business, fielding questions from a *Ram Page* reporter, lining up Senior Day plans with the ASU athletic communications staff and getting the 'Belles volleyball team organized for practice.

Simply a snapshot within the volleyball season, the moment before a late-season practice illustrated the roles and personalities of the Angelo State volleyball coaches responsible for leading the 'Belles to their highest winning percentage in a regular season. Waddington, originally from upstate New York, and Wang, his assistant from China, have melded well to produce the best regular season in ASU history at 28-4.

"It's a lot of fun being around both of them," said ASU junior Katie Coleman. "Qi is goofy sometimes and makes all of us laugh, and Coach Waddington is more serious at practice and in games. It's great being able to learn a lot from two different styles. Qi is a very technical coach, but also stresses the importance of keeping the game simple and fun. They are both able to put volleyball in a way that gets the most out of us."

Waddington has led ASU to four straight winning seasons since taking over the program in 2008, while Wang joined him in 2010 after being a head coach for eight seasons at three different schools, including Truman State, which he led to the NCAA Division II national title match in 2002 and 2004.

Recognized as a scholar and strategist of the game of volleyball, Wang maintains a simple philosophy based upon his experience as a head coach. "Winning is all that matters," he said, so he prefers to focus on the art of the game rather than the ancillary details of a head coach.

"Qi was a tremendous head coach," Waddington said, "but he wanted to come here and allow his entire focus to be on volleyball. He loves pure volleyball and really enjoys fo-

cusing on practices to get the girls to play at a very high level and on the matches when he can strategize against an opponent."

Wang, who was named the Division II national coach of the year in 2002 and led Truman State to a 133-17 record in four seasons, came to San Angelo after also holding head coaching positions at Northern Michigan (2005-06) and Florida Tech (2007-09). Before focusing his attention on coaching, Qi was a collegiate and professional player in China during the 1980s.

Once he arrived at ASU, Wang quickly developed a complementary relationship with Waddington to help the 'Belles succeed.

Said junior Alexa Williams, "We are calm on the court and have confidence in ourselves because of the way that they both prepare us. Qi wants us to enjoy what we are doing on the court and is always trying to keep us being positive no matter what the situation is like. Coach Waddington is always pushing us to stay focused and get better."

The 2011 'Belles reached their highest national ranking (No. 16) since 1992 and had a 15-game winning streak to start the year plus another streak of nine victories. Working together on the sidelines in matches and throughout the past two years in practices, Waddington and Wang have developed a coaching relationship that plays on each other's strengths.

"Qi has helped me to understand my coaching strengths as a motivator, while his strengths are when we are out on the courts training the girls," said Waddington, who this season guided the 'Belles to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1992. "He has a wealth of information to add to my knowledge that we combine to help our players reach their potential. It's been a great mix the past two years of two different styles that are working towards achieving one goal.

"I'd like to think that we could be playing as well as we have been if he had not come here," Waddington said. "But every day I get to work with him, I'm glad he's here helping to make this program better." ■



Chuck Waddington



Qi Wang

"I think this group has set the bar for others to come."

— Chuck Waddington



Kayla Smith

Photos by Kimberly Parker



Chrystal Ruiz

Photo by Danny Meyer

A Step Ahead

by Tommy Schield

The road to success for graduate student and Rambelle heptathlon star Chrystal Ruiz has been a winding journey that has taken her from Bandera to All-American status at ASU and this past fall to Guadalajara, Mexico, where she represented Mexico in the Pan American Games.

A four-sport athlete at Bandera High School, Ruiz was brightest on the track as a three-time district champion, who garnered all-state honors as a senior before accepting a scholarship to Angelo State. As an ASU freshman in 2007, she made immediate contributions to the track and field team.

“Coming into Angelo State, we knew she’d have an impact in the 400-hurdles and the mile-relay,” said Angelo State track and field head coach James Reid. “It panned out, as she made it to nationals as a freshman in the mile-relay. I guess it was a sign of things to come.”

Ruiz evolved into one of the most decorated student-athletes in Angelo State history and a key contributor to the Rambelles’ NCAA Division II National Championship in track and field in 2010. NCAA National Champion, numerous All-American selections and Lone Star Conference Champion are just a few of the accolades earned by the Bandera native, who is working on her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

“I’ve been coaching multi-events for 12 years,” said assistant coach and trainer Tom Dibbern, “and Chrystal

has gotten more out of her potential and God-given ability than any athlete I’ve ever seen. She’s got the drive and work ethic to follow through and reach any goal she sets.”

Even after the 2010 championship track season ended, her competitive desires remained and Ruiz set another goal – to compete on a bigger stage. That opportunity presented itself when Elbert Pratt, a liaison for Mexican athletes, contacted her to see if she would like to participate in the 2011 Mexico Championships. Ruiz was eligible for dual citizenship because her mother, Leticia Ruiz, was born in Mexico. After attaining her Mexican citizenship, Chrystal Ruiz four weeks later was competing in the Mexico Championships. Despite the short notice, she finished second and secured her spot in the Pan American Games.

“Chrystal did not have much time to prepare for the Mexico Championships, but she and Coach Dibbern worked extensively in the time they had and it paid off,” Reid said. “She was excited to advance to the Pan Am Games, and was amazed at the atmosphere in Guadalajara.”

It was a surreal feeling for Ruiz when she first walked into Estadio Telmex de Atletismo for the Pan American Games in late October. With more than 8,000 people cheering in a packed stadium, the 23-year-old was awed.

“It was overwhelming, but in a good way,” Ruiz said. “The stadium itself is a whole different experience, especially with me wearing the Mexican uniform. The crowd doesn’t even know me, but they were going crazy cheering for me. The announcer had to tell the crowd to be quiet just so they could start the races. It was awesome.”



Ruiz would go on to set the women’s heptathlon Mexican national record at the Pan American Games with 5,346 points. She climbed into sixth place on the final day of competition after setting a personal record in the 200-meter dash.

“We based my workouts around this event,” Ruiz said. “I could definitely feel the workouts coming in. I had a second gear, running my personal record, 24.8, but I would have liked to have scored better overall. I was consistent throughout the two days, and it was amazing to be able to break the Mexican record.”

Ruiz returned home to hundreds of phone calls and text messages congratulating her on her performance. The warm embrace was appreciated, but Ruiz is a natural competitor and is already focused on her next objective. With one semester of eligibility remaining, Ruiz has one goal, and that is to win the pentathlon at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March. If you ask Ruiz how her collegiate career ends, the answer is simple.

“I will be the national champion in the indoor pentathlon.” ■



Chrystal with her parents, Hector and Leticia

Photo courtesy of Leticia Ruiz

the Glory of Their Times

Six individuals whose Angelo State University accomplishments have brought glory to the athletic program have been selected for January induction into ASU’s Athletic Hall of Honor.

Former ASU student-athletes Curry Dawson and Jacki Mays Earl, coaches Mike Martin, Ed Messbarger and Jerry Vandergriff and administrator Shirley Morton make up the Hall of Honor’s Class of 2012 as announced by ASU Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield.

Tickets for the 6 p.m. reception and 7 p.m. dinner Jan. 20 in the C.J. Davidson Conference Center are available for \$25 apiece through ASU’s Athletics Office (325-942-2264, ASU Station #10899, San Angelo, TX 76909-0899, athletics@angelo.edu). No tickets will be sold at the door.

Curry Dawson was selected for his 1998-2001 accomplishments in both track and field and football. He was a two-time Academic All-American and a five-time All-Lone Star Conference selection in the sports. Dawson won three NCAA Division II national championships with discus titles in 2000 and 2001 and a shot put title in 2001. In football he was the LSC Defensive Lineman of the Year and a second team All-American in 2000.

A Rambelles sprinter, Jacki Mays Earl enters the Athletic Hall of Honor for accomplishments in track and field from 1980-82. In addition to setting ASU women’s records which still stand, Earl was the Rambelles’ first national champion, claiming the national crown in the 200-meter dash at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women’s National Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 1982.

Mike Martin joined the ASU coaching staff in 1972 and remained as an assistant coach through the 2004 season, ending his Angelo State career as defensive coordinator. Martin, who becomes the first assistant coach in the Hall of Honor, was defensive coordinator when ASU won the 1978 NAIA National Championship. Three of his former defensive players – Pierce Holt, Clayton Weishuhn and Greg Stokes – preceded him as Athletic Hall of Honor inductees.

A legend in the coaching profession, Ed Messbarger guided the basketball Rams from 1978-98 and compiled a 268-289 (.483) record. He guided ASU to a pair of Lone Star Conference titles and was named LSC Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1988. At the time of his retirement from coaching, Messbarger ranked third in Division II career wins with 665 and was second all-time in coaching appearances at any level of play.

ASU’s all-time winningest football coach, Jerry Vandergriff guided the Rams to four playoff appearances. During his 1982-2004 tenure as head coach, he led the Rams to two Lone Star Conference titles and 93 LSC victories. Vandergriff also won LSC Coach of the Year honors three times as head coach. He was part of the offensive coaching staff that won ASU’s 1978 NAIA National Championship in football.

Shirley Morton was involved in athletics in various capacities from 1967-2007. From 1984-94, she served as secretary/treasurer for the Lone Star Conference, which enshrined her in the LSC Hall of Honor in 1997. Morton voluntarily sponsored the ASU cheerleaders from 1975-88, missing only two football games, home or away, during that stretch. She also sponsored the ASU Fellowship of Christian Athletes from 1986-2003.

The new inductees will bring to 19 the number of honorees in the hall. Permanent plaques recognizing members of the Hall of Honor are located on the east concourse of the Junell Center/Stephens Arena. ■

Sports Center

As the new director of athletic communications, Brandon Ireton will be focused on increasing the visibility of Angelo State University athletes for their accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom.

Ireton, a Stanton native who had worked the last four years at Texas Tech University, including his final two years as assistant director of athletic communications for football, cross country and track and field, assumed his ASU duties in October.

“The thing that attracted me the most to Angelo State is the ability to do more than just athletic communications,” Ireton said. “I get to be involved in a wide variety of roles to help support Angelo State’s athletic program.”

His immediate goals are to increase Angelo State athletics visibility, including enhanced video on various social media sites, such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, and to increase recognition of ASU

athletes for accomplishments both athletically and academically.

Additionally, he plans to develop an internship program for students interested in working in athletic communications.

As director of athletic communications, Ireton oversees the coverage and promotion of 13 men’s and women’s sports, including media relations, game management, statistical reporting and web coverage through angelosports.com and social media.

“The other attraction of ASU was the chance to work with Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield,” Ireton said. “Being able to work with someone with her knowledge and experience on a day-to-day basis allows me to grow and continually improve.”

Prior to beginning his tenure at Texas Tech, Ireton worked in the Sports Information Office at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, assisting the director in daily operations and game-day preparation and coverage while he worked on his bachelor’s



Brandon Ireton

degree with a dual major in communication studies and public relations. He also earned a Master of Science in exercise and sports science with a concentration in sports management from Texas Tech.

In addition to his collegiate sports promotion experience, Ireton also worked a summer doing customer relations and game support for the Midland Rockhounds minor league baseball team. He is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America. ■

Sportsbriefs

X-Men and Women

The Angelo State men’s cross country team finished fourth at the 2011 Lone Star Conference Championship – a five-spot improvement from the previous season – while the women came in third at the meet held in San Angelo.

At the South Central Regional meet in Wichita Falls, both the Rams and ’Belles finished in the top 15. Junior Emeline Crutcher led the Rambelles in every race this season, never falling out of the top 10. The Wellman native finished her campaign earning All-Lone Star Conference honors with a fourth-place finish at the LSC Championships and crossing the line in 10th at regionals.

The Rams’ Bryan Barker was just as consistent for the men, earning All-LSC honors at the conference championship after finishing in the top 10. Barker and Crutcher each ended the season earning All-Regional honors with their performances at the regional meet.

Soccer Shootout

Advancing to the postseason for the second consecutive season under head coach Travis McCorkle, the Rambelles’ soccer season ended in the Lone Star Conference Championship quarterfinals with a 4-3 shootout loss to Texas A&M-Commerce.

Senior Brandie DeBacker finished the season with a team-leading nine goals and was named to the All-LSC First Team, the LSC All-Tournament Team, the District 6 Capital One Academic All-District Team and the LSC All-Academic Team. DeBacker finished her four-year career with 34 goals and 80 points – both putting her second in the all-time ASU record book.

Junior Lauren Carnes and sophomore Jordan Benfield earned All-LSC second team honors, while Carnes joined DeBacker and senior Megan Schaffer as LSC All-Academic selections. Benfield was also named to the

District 6 Academic All-District Team. Sophomore Maggie Schaffer scored six goals for the Rambelles, including a hat trick (three goals) in a 5-0 home win over the University of Texas-Permian Basin. Junior Hanna Horeis added four goals and matched DeBacker with a team-leading three assists.

The Rambelles finished the season in fifth place in the LSC standings with a 5-6-3 conference record and a 6-9-4 overall mark.

A Promising Start

After chalking up their best start since 2005 with a 3-0 record, the Rams ran into a buzz saw of three top 25 Lone Star Conference opponents and a series of key injuries that contributed to a 5-6 inaugural season for head football coach Will Wagner.

“We are not satisfied with the results,” Wagner said, “but it was a good starting point to where we want to get. I think we laid the foundation, but we have to continue improving through the year to get the results we all want. Our guys are going to continue working hard during the offseason and be ready when next season gets here.”

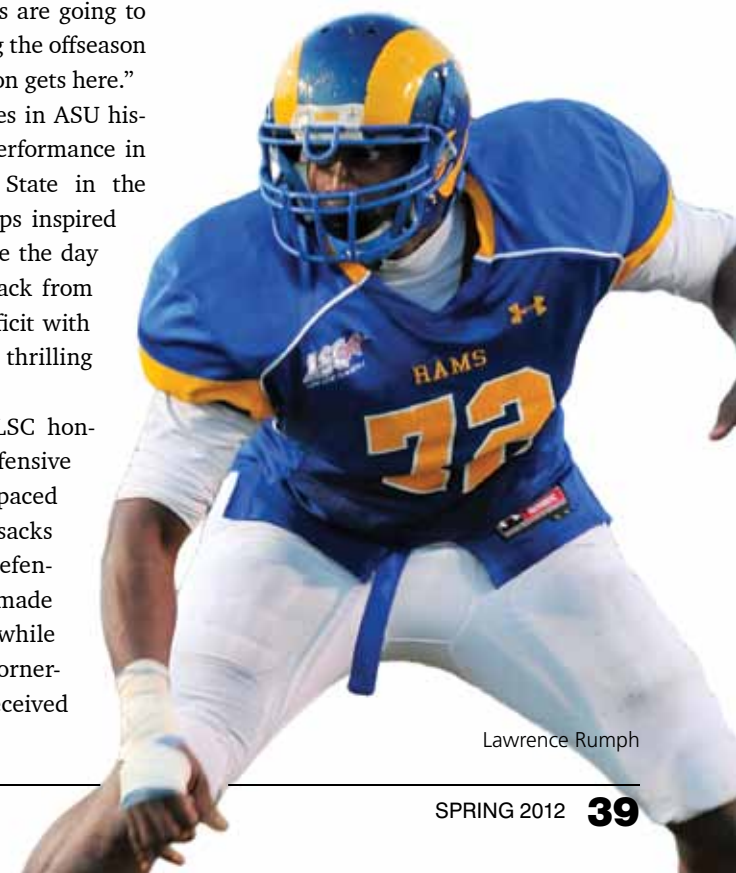
For a highlight, few games in ASU history can match the Rams’ performance in Nebraska against Chadron State in the season’s second game. Perhaps inspired by a visit to Mount Rushmore the day before, the Rams stormed back from a 21-point, fourth-quarter deficit with 28 unanswered points for a thrilling comeback victory, 49-42.

Ten Rams received All-LSC honors, including first team defensive end Lawrence Rumph, who paced the Rams’ defense with nine sacks and 13.5 tackles for losses. Defensive tackle Kyle Patterson made the All-LSC second team while safety Alvin Johnson and cornerback Terrance Preston received honorable mention.

Offensively, senior tight end Nate Bayless earned second team All-LSC honors with 27 catches and four touchdowns. Honorable mention went to offensive linemen Ryan Merryman and Austin Sumrall as well as running back Tristan Carter, who recorded five 100-yard performances to finish the year with 926 yards, the highest total by a Rams back in three seasons.

Punter George Shamblen and returner Paul Mason earned spots on the All-LSC second team. Shamblin averaged 40.6 yards per punt with a long of 72 while Mason averaged 10.8 yards per punt return, including a 70-yard return.

In assessing the season, Wagner said, “I could see a drastic improvement from the first game to the last game. The players were more comfortable in our system and we could really tell that they were understanding and embracing what we were trying to accomplish. I’m really excited about our freshman class and the potential they have.” ■



Lawrence Rumph

all Sports, all the time



webcasts and audio to keep up with events as they happen at many ASU athletic contests.

Rams and Rambelles social media options include Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, where fans can receive updates on all sporting events and stay connected to ASU Athletics throughout the season.

The official Facebook home of Angelo State athletics is available at [facebook.com/angelostatesports](https://www.facebook.com/angelostatesports) with 1,800-plus fans and growing.

Fans can access pre- and post-game coverage with video footage and interviews at [YouTube.com/AngeloSports](https://www.youtube.com/AngeloSports).

The newest addition to the Rams and Rambelles social media options is Twitter, available at [Twitter.com/AngeloSports](https://twitter.com/AngeloSports). With 375-plus fans, Twitter is perfect for ASU followers wanting concise updates on ASU events.

“Social media is an integral part of recruiting and is a priority of the Athletic Communications Office,” said Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield. “The ability to provide fans, alumni and future Angelo State students with score updates and video as quickly as possible is extremely valuable for our department.” ■

a Soldier's Journey

by Roy Ivey

Four decades removed from one of the most divisive periods in American history, Tim Soyars has had a chance to contemplate his role in the Vietnam War.

Many of his reflections on the good, bad and ugly of the conflict can be found in his new book, *Where's Charlie?, Memories of a Time of War, 1965-68*, published by iUniverse last July. The title doubles as a reference both to Soyars as a member of Charlie Company and to the nickname American soldiers gave the enemy Vietcong from their designation VC, short for Victor Charlie.

Like many soldiers returning from the Vietnam War, Soyars was greeted with hostility when he came home to Texas in 1968. He recalled the expressions of pity from some people because he was sent over to fight and the mockery by protestors.

"When I returned to the United States, I found the atmosphere shocking," Soyars said. "I'd read the news reports about the growing antagonism and the escalating costs of the war, but I was disheartened by the general reception I personally received."

"My flight from Vietnam landed in Seattle where I changed planes," he said. "The terminal was full of returning GIs from Vietnam, but we were largely ignored by the public – the exception being a few family members greeting returning soldiers and a few war protestors carrying signs saying 'Baby Killers,' and 'Stop the War.' I only stayed in Seattle long enough to catch another flight south to Los Angeles."

Despite that hostile reception, Soyars quickly re-entered society and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Angelo State in 1972. That led to a long career with Mobil Oil Corp.

After retiring from Mobil, Soyars became director of Business and IT Operations at Mountain View Community College in Dallas and decided it was finally time to put his Vietnam experience down on paper.

In the course of gathering material for *Where's Charlie?*, Soyars reviewed photo slides he took in Vietnam and reread the letters his wife had sent him. Her letters made home seem closer for him when she included such news as the Green Bay Packers beating the Dallas Cowboys, 21-17, in the "Ice Bowl" National Football League championship game prior to Super Bowl II in 1967.

"My wife helped me by sending letters, and she also sent darts," he said. "My men had a ball with that, and the thing that made life over there tolerable for me was that Jeanie wrote me every day. Her letters made my day."

During his combat tour in Vietnam, Soyars was quickly thrust into a position normally reserved for more experienced soldiers.

"When I was 21, I was put in a leadership role over men, many older than myself," he said. "I took that seriously and learned from them. I wanted to lead those men and keep them out of harm's way. I earned their respect, and it was a great learning experience for me."

Next in his chain of command was Platoon Sgt. Alfonso Salazar, who was already in Charlie Company, Second Battalion, Fifth Cavalry Regiment when Soyars arrived.

"We worked well as a team," Soyars said. "I started thinking of him as a friend, and the men picked up on the relationship we had. That was a very impressionable time for me and anyone who has been in combat knows about the bond they develop



Tim Soyars, Vietnam 1967

with their fellow soldiers akin to brotherhood. You always have a never-ending tear for those you left behind. The most pain comes from thinking of those 18-to-23-year-olds whose lives ended and had none of the joy I've had."

Later in his tour, Soyars was promoted to S4, a supply staff officer position, where he dealt with situations that both gratified and pained him, including one that haunts him to this day.

"I got a call about some of my men not wanting to unload a helicopter at the landing area," he said. "When I got there, I found the helicopter loaded with a four-foot-tall pile of bodies of U.S. soldiers who had been killed in an ambush, 15 of them. The pilot was a captain who had never flown for me before, and wanted my men to unload the soldiers there. I told him to take them to the medivac unit and take them off there or take them back with him to his home base, but he wasn't going to leave them in my cargo area. Since then, I've seen the faces of those men many a night."

Of all the people Soyars met during his military experience, the one who made the most lasting impression on him was his battalion commander, Col. Joseph B. Love.

"Col. Love had received a battlefield commission during World War II and then went to West Point," Soyars said. "He was a real out-of-the-textbook man and had a temper like Gen. George Patton's. He ordered anything that was stationary to be painted yellow with 'Ready, Sir!' printed on it. We

always saluted him and said 'Ready, Sir!' when we saw him. He also wanted meetings around a round table instead of a square one so he could look everyone in the eye. When we sat around that table, he asked questions and if you didn't please him with the answers, he would chew you out."

Soyars served a year in Vietnam from 1967-68. Upon his return, people would often ask him if he felt bad about losing part of his life to the war. His response was and still is, "absolutely not."

"War was part of U.S. policy," he said. "The law was that all men my age would serve. I had ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, and this was my war. I was proud to go into combat and always knew that's what I was going to do."

In the epilogue of *Where's Charlie?*, Soyars wrote, "During my year in Vietnam, the tide of American opinion deteriorated, and the media and the American people, at least the most vocal, began demanding an end to the war."

When the war ended for him, Soyars was one of the lucky ones who got to return to his wife and his awaiting future.

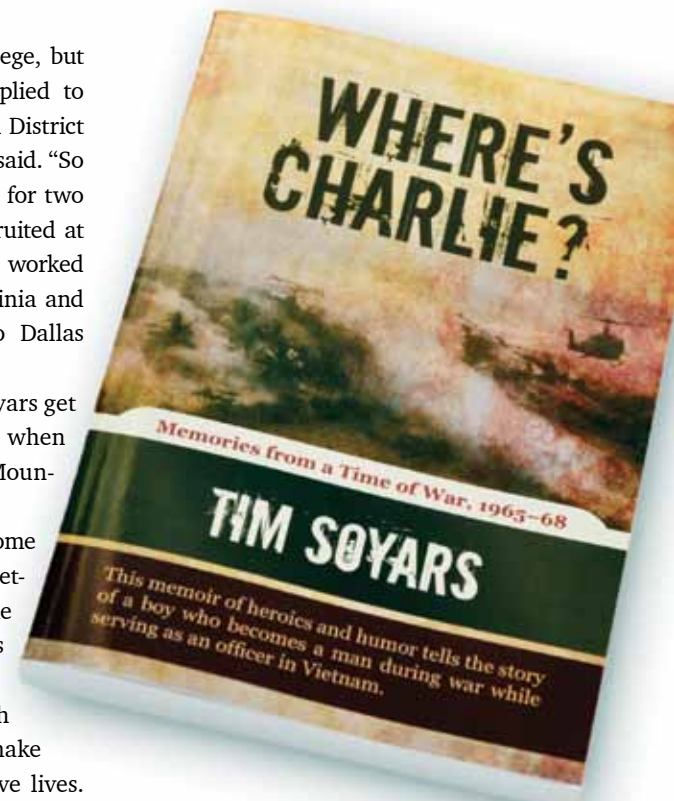
"Jeanie planned to teach public school while I attended college and she applied to

every city that had a four-year college, but nothing materialized until she applied to the San Angelo Independent School District which had two music openings," he said. "So I attended ASU. I worked for Sears for two years while in college and was recruited at ASU by Mobil Oil Corp. in Dallas. I worked in Dallas, New York, northern Virginia and Zimbabwe before coming back to Dallas where I retired in 1995."

A friend in Dallas suggested Soyars get back in the workforce, and that is when he joined the administration at Mountain View.

Although the years have put some distance between him and his Vietnam experience, Soyars has kept the things he learned there close to his heart and applied them to his life.

"Being a leader of men in tough situations," he said, "you have to make fast decisions that are going to save lives. I had excellent training, prepared well and dedicated myself to be the best. It really laid the foundation for the rest of my life. When you read my book, you will find that my stories convey a different perspective about the reality of the Vietnam War, and I am pleased to share them." ■



For more on Soyars and his book, go online to his website at www.timsoyars.com. *Where's Charlie?* is available for purchase on *Amazon.com*.

Vietnam photos courtesy of Tim Soyars



Soyars, in his *Ready Sir* Jeep

Best in Texas



Stephanie Stoebe

Angelo State alumna Stephanie Stoebe's students can tell everyone that they have one of the best teachers in Texas.

A reading specialist at Round Rock High School, Stoebe was named the 2012 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year in a joint award by the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Association of School Administrators.

"My most significant contributions to education," Stoebe said, "will be that I gave hope to children when they had none. I gave directions to students who were lost, both emotionally and academically. I taught kids to read, first the words, then the sentences, and then finally they understood that education is the greater equalizer in society today."

A 2000 Angelo State graduate with a Master of Education/Reading Specialist degree, Stoebe attended ASU while her husband, Walter, was an instructor at Goodfellow Air Force Base. Accompanying Walter on his various Army assignments, Stoebe also taught elementary and middle school in Arizona and Georgia and made stops in South Korea, Hawaii and California before Walter retired and they moved to Round Rock.

With her Teacher of the Year Award in hand, Stoebe is now looking forward to new challenges. She believes the trend toward immigration-fueled population growth in Texas will continue, and well-trained English teachers will be vital to a productive society and stable economy. To that end, she is moving within the Round Rock school district to become English language arts instructional coach at Cedar Ridge High School.

"Cedar Ridge is the newest and, I think, the largest high school in Central Texas," Stoebe said. "It opened last year and got an academically unacceptable rating. I'll be supporting teachers by targeting best

practices for what they are teaching, helping them get materials together and finding information. I want to support the teaching standards, help take solid instruction and make it the best it can be to take the school to another level."

In her role at Cedar Ridge, Stoebe will also help guide the development of economically disadvantaged students' math skills, an area of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) program in which the school fell short.

"One important lesson teachers can learn in working with kids," she said, "is we have to teach them how to recover when life throws them curveballs. We have to adjust our teaching delivery so they can use experiences to make them a better person. Kids are innocent, and it's not their fault that their family is in poverty or their dad is in jail."



Outside the classroom, Stoebe enjoys reading and writing, and spending time with Walter and their son, Zachary. She believes that having quality family time makes her a better teacher.

"Things I need to do for school get done at school, like grading papers and posting lessons," she said. "Our time as a family is very limited, so when it's time to leave, I have my life waiting at home. I wouldn't be a good teacher if I didn't have something left for me at the end of the day."

One of her favorite ASU moments was also related to family and one of her mentors, Dr. Judith Hakes of the teacher education faculty. It happened as Stoebe was getting ready to graduate.

"When I walked across the stage to get my diploma, I was nine-months pregnant with my son," she said. "They called my name, and Dr. Hakes called out, 'and Zachary.'" ■

Music – continued from page 19

"Whenever I performed around the community," Kelley said, "people would come up to me and say, 'I used to play flute in high school' or 'I just got my flute out of the closet.' So, what better way to meet people and bring them together than a flute choir? They have a commonality among them, so it was a great way to bring them together."

"It is also a way to do something for the community," she added. "We've been out to various places in the area, including nursing homes, the mall, the Baptist retirement community and churches."

With its 10-12 members, the choir schedules one outing in the spring and one in December. During each, it will perform at several locations for a variety of audiences. Musical selections depend on the season.

"The last two Decembers, we played mostly holiday-type repertoire at the mall and various nursing homes," Kelley said. "In the spring, the repertoire is more varied. We will play something classical, perhaps a march, as well as more popular music. We try to have varied repertoire that people will enjoy and perhaps identify with."

Through efforts like these, and while practicing their crafts and entertaining thousands of people who enjoy art, theatre and music, ASU faculty and staff members are at the forefront of the partnership that has existed between San Angelo and the university since its founding in 1928.

"If ASU were not to reach out or open its doors to the community, there would be a real disconnect," Kelley said. "Peoples' lives are so enriched by the campus and community sharing all they can in the arts." ■

CLASSnotes

Each issue of the *Angelo State University Magazine* highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1977

Linda Beth (L.B.) Brady has been named chief information officer at Austin's Concordia University, where she will be responsible for academic and administrative computing, telecommunications and infrastructure.

Brady earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from ASU and is a licensed certified public accountant in Texas. She previously served as an associate vice president at the University of Texas at Austin.

1979

Pflugerville Independent School District has named **Freddie McFarland**, who earned his bachelor's degree at ASU, as the district's director of student affairs.

Previously, McFarland served as Hendrickson High School principal for two years, starting in 2009. Before that, he was superintendent in the Kerens and Stockdale districts, a principal in the Jarrell district and an assistant principal in the Leander district.

1981

Dr. Albert Reyes, who was featured in the spring 2010 issue of *Angelo State University Magazine*, has been appointed CEO of Buckner International, effective May 1.

As CEO, Reyes will oversee the \$100 million annual budget and the daily operations of more than 1,300 employees worldwide through Buckner Children and Family Services' domestic and international ministries and Buckner Retirement Services' seven senior living communities in Texas.

A native of Corpus Christi, Reyes earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from ASU. He served previously as president of Buckner Children and Family Services and, since January of 2010, as president of Buckner International.

1984

E. Scott Frost was installed in August as federal magistrate judge for Abilene and San Angelo and is hearing cases for both the Abilene and San Angelo divisions of the Texas Northern District of the U.S. District Court.

Judge Frost, who grew up in Eastland, is a graduate of ASU and the Texas Tech University School of Law. Until his appointment to the bench in August, he had been assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District in Lubbock since 1990.

Frost succeeded Judge Philip Lane, who retired in June.

1989

Thomas L. Clark has moved to UGL Services as a vice president in its Dallas office from his previous position with CresaPartners, where he negotiated sales and oversaw marketing and business development efforts.

A resident of Colleyville, Clark earned a B.B.A. in finance/real estate from ASU. He holds a broker designation from the Texas Real Estate Commission.

1991

Dr. Thomas A. Wallis has been named superintendent of the 16,000-student Bryan Independent School District.

Wallis graduated from ASU in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and history. He taught school, coached and moved into an administrative career while earning a Master of Education from Texas A&M University-Commerce and a doctorate from Stephen F. Austin State University.

He was named the 2007 High School Principal of the Year by the state secondary school principals association.

1991

John Reese has been hired as an assistant on the Texas A&M basketball staff after 15 years with the Bryan High School Vikings, including the last 10 as head coach. As head coach, he led Bryan to 246 wins, seven district championships and nine playoff appearances.

Reese, who has worked for the Bryan Independent School District for the last 18 years, graduated from ASU with a degree in kinesiology and speech communication. He is a longtime member of the Texas High School Coaches Association and the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

2009

Thomas Cornejo Jr. will serve as the district executive for the newly formed Amistad District of the Concho Valley Council, a San Angelo-based organization that provides official Boy Scouts programs to more than 2,500 scouts in southwest Texas. Cornejo will serve the Del Rio, Junction, Sonora and surrounding areas.

He graduated from ASU with a B.B.A. in international business.

2011

Emily Griffin, a spring 2011 ASU graduate, has joined Amarillo television station KVII-TV's *Pronews 7*.

While at ASU, Griffin served as an ASU cheerleader and graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in mass communication with specialization in radio/TV. Griffin, a Floydada native, also worked part-time as an evening producer for KSAN-TV in San Angelo.



HOMECOMING HONOREES – Recognized by the ASU Alumni Association during Homecoming Weekend were (from left, front row) Adelina Morales, Distinguished Staff; Nita Archer, Golden Ex; Dr. Peggy Skaggs, Distinguished Retired Faculty; Dr. Amanda Marshall, Distinguished Carr Scholar; (back row) Pam Darby, Distinguished Faculty; Michael Martin, Honorary Alumnus; Henry Jackson, Distinguished Alumnus; and Col. James P. Ross, Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

alumni association century club

as of November 4, 2011

DIAMOND

Bryan and Renee Heflin, Monahans
Mickey and Renee Long, Midland
Mark and Debbie Low, Dallas
Milton Nickel, Polson, Mont.
Louie and Amy Perez, San Angelo

PLATINUM

Jeffrey and Deborah Brennan,
Mill Creek, Wash.
Larry Clark, Richmond
Dan and Terri Herrington, Boerne
Lloyd and Sheri Norris, San Angelo
Frank Sturzl, Lakeway
Randy and Emma Russell,
Round Hill, Va.

GOLDEN

Steve and Marsha Arvedson, Houston
Gary Baty, Horseshoe Bay
Kyle and Pam Box, San Angelo
Randy and Debbie Dews, Dallas
Monti and Lisa Eady, San Angelo
Richard and Debra Farr, San Angelo
C.B. Franke, San Angelo
Maj. Gen. Ronnie D. and Maria
Hawkins, Washington, D.C.
Steve and Lisa Holifield, Midland
Takeo Ishimasa, Eatontown, N.J.
Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand,
San Angelo
Allen and Mesha Millsap Jr.,
San Antonio
John Norman, Houston
Eric and Kimberly Peterson,
San Angelo
Beth Stringer, San Angelo
Steve and Susan Timms, Humble

SILVER

Dr. Ross Alexander, San Angelo
Maurice Archer and
Barbara Alford-Archer, Lamesa
Bob and Trudy Ballentine, San Angelo
Gary and Leslee Bowen, San Angelo
Lane and Elaine Bowen, Mathis
Dr. Russ and Frances Boyles, Odessa
Bo and Michelle Brannon, Granbury
David and Rebecca Bray, San Angelo
David and Heather Bushnell,
New Braunfels
Jerry and Nidia Casillas, Katy

Kirk and Patsy Cleere, San Angelo
William and Karen Coggins Jr.,
Minneapolis, Minn.
Troy and Lisa Deubler, Irving
Norman and Linda Dierschke,
San Angelo
Dale and Sherry Dodson, Plano
Van and Angela Echols, Lubbock
David and Delta Emerson, Dallas
Brad and Mercyla Fly, San Angelo
Dean and Janice Fox, Port O'Connor
Wayne T. Franke, Austin
Jim and Dana Glossbrenner,
San Angelo
Wes and Laren Green, San Angelo
Charles and Donna Hall, Bangs
David and Jo Nell Harlow, San Angelo
Grady Harlow, San Angelo
Darron Hefner, Big Spring
Joe and Su Ann Henderson,
San Angelo
Joey Henderson Jr., San Angelo
David and Carol Herreman, Lewisville
Ferd and Cindy Hoefs, San Angelo
Joe and Jenny Hoelle, San Angelo
Virginia Hunt-Edmiston, Murphy
Hawkins, Washington, D.C.
Pat Jackson, Christoval
Jim and Dorothy Kramer,
Shavano Park
Dale Land, Midland
Lanny and Joni Layman, San Angelo
Dr. Justin Louder, Lubbock
Dr. Brian and Patti May, San Angelo
Dr. W. Bonham and
Marcille Magness, Houston
Jeff and Amy McCormick, San Angelo
James and Maureen Meador,
Christoval
Mike and Brenda Morris, San Angelo
Charles and Shirley Morton,
San Angelo
Carrol Nokes, Arlington
Greg Ochs, Dallas
LeRoy Olsak, San Angelo
Jay Orr, Austin
Engedi Parmer, San Angelo
Dean Parnell, San Antonio
Louis and Kay Parras, San Angelo
Billie Phinney, Mereta
Mark Priest, San Angelo
Jim and Marion Ratcliff, Georgetown
John and Debbie Reed, Lubbock
Bradley and Alison Romike,
Spring Branch

Cassandra Sanders, San Angelo
Oron and Dorothy Schuch,
San Angelo
Cynthia Seger, Fort Worth
Brian and Jean Shannon, Lubbock
Jacqueline Shannon, San Angelo
George and Evelyn Strebeck,
San Angelo
Kenny and Beth Sumrall, Katy
Mike Vallandingham, Austin
Jerry and RoseAnn Vandergriff,
San Angelo
Johnell Vincent, San Angelo
James Waterbury, Madison, Wisc.
Brian and Doxie Watson, Midland
Sue and Richard Way, San Angelo
Marc and Karissa Willhite,
Washington, D.C.
Ronnie and Pauline Willmann,
San Angelo
Dr. Noel and Jacqueline Williams,
Franklin, Ky.
Dr. Kelly and Lesa Wilson, San Angelo
Rodney and Betty Winn, San Angelo

ACCESS ASU

Hope Alexander, San Angelo
Pat Barton, San Angelo
Jamie Bonner, San Angelo
Dianna Cain, San Angelo
John Castillo, San Angelo
Jorge Chavez, San Angelo
John and Hilary Choate, San Angelo
Roger Collins, San Angelo
Cayce Cowan, San Angelo
Patrick Dunagan, San Angelo
Edgar Dunn, San Angelo
Marco Escobar, San Angelo
Jody and Corina Fauley, San Angelo
Angelo and Becca Flores, Christoval
Doran Gaston, San Angelo
Yantis and Sheryl Green, San Angelo
Sara Halfmann, San Angelo
Aaron Hargett, San Angelo
David Heath, San Angelo
George Jackson Jr., San Angelo
Mark and Selina Jackson, San Angelo
David Jacobo, San Angelo
Gerald Jost, Wall
Stephen Keating, San Angelo
Pamela Lee, San Angelo
Lori Manship, San Angelo
Scott and Sueann Martin, San Angelo
Fernando Martinez, San Angelo
Dr. John and Valerie Matthews,
San Angelo
Michael McCammon, San Angelo
Amy Morgan, San Angelo
Dr. Mark and Lisa Murphy, San Angelo
Phil and Susan Neighbors, San Angelo
Linda Norris, San Angelo
Richard Parks, San Angelo
Linda Patrick, Plano
Michael Sage, San Angelo
Robert Salas, San Angelo
Ryon Sanders, Eden
Garry and Cathy Sitz, Midland
Dr. W. Truett Smith, San Angelo
Eric and Amy Smith, San Angelo
Gwendolyn Smith, San Angelo
Amy Sturdivant, San Angelo

Corey and Sherry Turner, San Angelo
Gene and Dietra Tuttle, Burleson
Matthew Waller, San Angelo
Edward and Theresa Welch,
San Angelo
Patti Wetzel, San Angelo
Lloyd Woodfin Sr., San Angelo

ACCESS ASU-SILVER

Mustafa and Nancy Baghdadi,
San Angelo
Chris and Deborah Brenek,
San Angelo
Michael Bridges and Nancy Taylor,
San Angelo
Cornelius and Michelle Chinn,
San Angelo
Mark Cooper, San Angelo
Col. John and Elaine Diggins III,
San Angelo
Gilbert and Sylvia Gallegos,
San Angelo
Ric and Katherine Henry, San Angelo
Jim and Kim Jones, San Angelo
Tyler Jones, San Angelo
John and Tamara Kinyon, San Angelo
Joseph and Audrey Medley,
San Angelo
Robert Mims, San Angelo
Royce and Tana Pyssen, San Angelo
Byron and Belinda Sawyer,
San Angelo
Paul and Molly Swets, San Angelo
Will and Brendy Welch, San Angelo
Scott and D'Laine Westmoreland,
San Angelo
J. Mike and Ruth Wheeler, San Angelo
Lloyd and Sheri Woodfin, Jr.,
San Angelo

CENTURY CLUB

Amanda Abanilla, Euless
Donald and Jean Abell, San Angelo
John and Sharon Alexander,
San Angelo
Glenn and Michelle Anderson, Crane
Nita Archer, San Angelo
William Archer, San Angelo
M.V. and Lizbeth Armour, Midland
Stratton and Jean Beesley Sr.,
San Angelo
Eugene Berger, San Angelo
Erin Berthiaume, Converse
Michael and Dr. Jaynell Bodine,
Sterling City
David Boswell, Austin
Merl and Becky Brandon, Miles
Kathleen Brasfield, San Angelo
Brandon Bredemeyer, Odessa
Tim and Bonnie Brewster, Eden
Sarah Burnett, Providence Village
Rosemary Calvert, San Angelo
Van Carson, San Angelo
Glen and Marcie Carter, Midland
Steve and Kay Castle, Midland
Reynaldo Chavez, Schertz
Mark and Karen Clark, San Angelo
Rev. Frank Coniglio, Dubois, Wyo.
Donald and Pat Cox, San Angelo
Kim Cox, San Angelo
X B and Melba Cox, San Angelo

Darryl and Robyn DeSeve,
Manassas, Va.
Marvin and Janis Dierschke,
San Angelo
D'Ann Dodson, Euless
Russell and Linda Dressen, Abilene
Danny and Janell Eckert, San Angelo
Miguel Elizondo, San Antonio
Sonja England, Midland
Steve and Julie Eustis, San Angelo
Becky Fitch, Flower Mound
Mark Fraley, San Antonio
Diane Fischer, Sacramento, Calif.
Mark Fraley, San Antonio
Chancey Garza, Grand Junction, Colo.
Scott and Maricela Gray, San Antonio
Gary and Frances E. Grogan,
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George and Gayle Hamilton, Devine
Dan and Anne Hamilton, San Angelo
Jeff and Mindy Hamilton, Lubbock
Shawn Hancock, Irving
Dr. Pat Hanford, Lubbock
Edgar Harris, San Angelo
David and Katie Harrison,
San Angelo

George and Sande Harrison,
San Angelo
Carlynn Hicks, Boerne
Jean Hierholzer, Kerrville
Doray Hill Jr., San Angelo
Shirley Hodges, Snyder
Tod Hoelscher, Ballinger
Jeffrey and Dianne Holbrooks,
Universal City
Dr. E. James and Bobbie Holland,
San Angelo
Roy Ivey and Dr. Sarah Logan,
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Sherri Jones, San Angelo
Joanne Jones, Lubbock
Kathryn Kelly, Austin
Dr. LeeRoy and Betty Kiesling,
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Kent and Nevie Lacy, San Angelo
Leslie and Lorenzo Lasater,
San Angelo
Jerry Lee, Bedford
Deb Lewis, San Antonio
Valerie Lopez, Uvalde
Dr. David and Judy Loyd Jr.,
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Jane Lunn, Sandia Park, N.M.
Larry and Judy Lusby, Ballinger
Glenda Maddox, Tennyson
Gary and Gretchen Massingill,
Plainview
Jerry and Sandra Mayo, Palestine
Mark McClung, Austin
Dr. Mack and Dixie McCoulskey,
San Angelo
T. Dean and Lisa McInturff,
San Angelo
Dean and Suzette McIntyre,
San Angelo
Rick McKinney, San Angelo
Rick and Inger McManus,
San Angelo
Glenn and Leslie Mellinger, Wolforth

Jesus Mercado, Alpine
Mary Michalewicz, Buda
Michael and Brooke Mitchell, Houston
Jennifer Mobley, San Angelo
Laura Montez, San Angelo
Michele Moreno, San Antonio
Diana Munoz, San Angelo
Ewell Murphy Jr., Houston
Michael Keith Murray, Midland
Corey and Shauna Owens, San Angelo
Jimmy and Elaine Nail, Lubbock
Ed R. Nalepka, Midlothian
Edward Nalepka, San Angelo
Karen Nelson, Hewitt
Shelley Norton, San Angelo
Richey and Martha Oliver, San Angelo
Clovis and Bettie Olsak, San Angelo
Corey and Shauna Owens, San Angelo
Meghan Pace, San Angelo
Mark and Marsha Pape, San Angelo
James and Blossom Parry, San Angelo
Maj. Sean and Christie Partee, Grapevine
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Steve and Linda Simmons, Bedford
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Bruce and Tammy Truesdale, San Antonio
Mason Vaughan, Eldorado
Dr. Tommy and LaJan Walter, Jacksonville, Fla.
Mindy Warren, Midland
Scott and Cynthia Weber, Bedford
Dr. Michael Wedin, Sweetwater
Dr. Amanda Weitz-Marshall, San Antonio
Brandon and Erin Whitford, San Angelo
Dr. Whitney Whitworth, Monticello, Ark.
Troyce and Rebecca Wilcox, San Angelo
Mary Wilkerson, San Angelo
Anna Williams, Midland
Carolyn Williams, Plano
Lt. James and Camille Wilson, Sherwood, Ark.
Kimberly Woods, Houston
Eric Zeittler, Bulverde

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musk,” Brashear said. “I would’ve still been able to come to class in the same clothes if I had only been sprayed that much. But, even that small amount made them sick.”

The reactions of the crew also caused Haruna Ai to back out of her previous plan to get sprayed on camera for the show.

“Eric, Dr. Dragoo and the reporter were right behind me filming,” Brashear said. “I would let the skunk go, and they would try to corral the skunk and get the reporter to run into the middle. If you get close enough, a skunk will spray a fine mist while it is running, leaving a nice musk cloud for you to run through. But, she stayed about 15 feet behind the skunk the whole time.”

“We got sprayed,” Pomposelli added, “and I guess that was enough for her to experience it. They filmed her reaction, about five minutes of gagging and coughing. I barely got sprayed on my arm and leg, but one sniff and they were all gagging.”

Another unexpected change to the script was the inclusion of Pomposelli.

“I wasn’t expecting to be interviewed,” he said. “But, during the whole skunk chase scene, I got sprayed and all of a sudden there was a camera in my face and the reporter started talking to me. I was half out of breath and sweating, and there was no one to say ‘cut,’ but it was great.”

“Yeah,” Brashear said, “I was out there skunk wrangling while Eric was being a film star.”

Additional ASU student volunteers were also on location for a segment of the filming designed to show how far skunk smell can travel. Brashear extracted some skunk musk and put it in a metal container. Dragoo then dipped a cloth in the musk and waved it in the air.

“The students lined up over about 100 meters across a field to measure how far the scent would travel,” Brashear said. “They all had white signal flags to raise if they could smell it.”

“The reporter ran about 100 meters past all of us,” Pomposelli added. “Then there was more gagging and choking as she said the smell traveled that far.”

Apparently, a good time was had by all, except maybe the skunks. But, the overall seriousness of the project was not lost on the ASU participants.

“Without Dr. Dowler there,” Pomposelli said, “we knew we were representing not only Angelo State University, but also the Biology Department, the faculty, especially Dr. Dowler, and ourselves as researchers. With that in mind, we did our best, minus some artistic liberties associated with filmmaking, to keep it educational.”

“Wes and I explained how amazing skunks are,” he added. “We described their adaptations and behavior, the evolutionary reasons for their defense and how it evolved, and the components of their musk, etc. We continually tried to dispel the bad reputation they have by using words like ‘defense’ instead of ‘weapon’ and ‘predators’ instead of ‘enemies.’”

Since Brashear, Pomposelli and the rest of the ASU volunteers were obviously not able to view the final show when it aired New Year’s Day in Japan, they hope to complete their involvement by getting their hands on a DVD copy.

“There were a lot of student volunteers from ASU out there,” Pomposelli said. “So, I know a whole bunch of us are going to want to get the footage. We did about five takes of everything, so even my neighbor and my girlfriend are in there. Whether they made the cut, we’ll just have to wait and see.” ■



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